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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 24-27, 2016

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Rosemary Westwood
on Jian Ghomeshi

'Not guilty might be what Canada needs'

metroVIEWS

Rob Ford to lie in state

DEBATE

Public memorial at city hall for a former mayor is unprecedented

Councillor and former mayor Rob Ford will lie in repose at the heart of city hall in a visitation open to the public ahead of a full funeral procession next week.

That civic honour for the controversial former mayor — at the request of Ford's family with Mayor John Tory's blessing — is an unprecedented event in Toronto's history. Two sitting mayors, but never a former mayor, have been given a public memorial at city hall.

Ford, 46, died at Mount Sinai Hospital from a rare and aggressive cancer on Tuesday.

City hall, which is normally closed Easter Monday, will open its doors for Ford's casket and his family at 9 a.m.; visitors will be allowed in from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ford's body will remain the next day, March 29, with visitation from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. On March 30, a procession is planned from city hall to St. James Cathedral on Church Street for a lunchtime funeral service.

Following the funeral, the Ford family will host a "celebration of Coun. Ford's life" at the Toronto Congress Centre in Etobicoke starting at 6:30 p.m., where video clips to be submitted by the public will be played.

'Rob Ford deserves our sympathy, not our tributes' metroNEWS
Do you agree Ford should lie in state at city hall? metroNEWS.ca

Reacting to news of the memorials online, some questioned Ford being honoured at city hall after he was found to have repeatedly broken conflict of interest rules and council's code of conduct and was accused of drinking in his city hall office, verbally and physically abusing former staffers, and frequently missing work as mayor.

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Have a happy Easter weekend! Metro returns on Monday.

Holding out for justice

Members of Toronto's Black Lives Matters movement entered their fourth day of protest Wednesday. They're camping out in front of police headquarters in pursuit of justice for Andrew Loku, shot dead by a Toronto officer last year. Police seized the protesters' tents Monday and doused a fire they were using to stay warm, but the comrades show no sign of backing down. Here's what they had to say.

TEXT AND PHOTOS: JESSICA SMITH CROSS METRO

Yasmin Mumed is at the protest because she believes "power lies with the people — not the people in power, like the police."

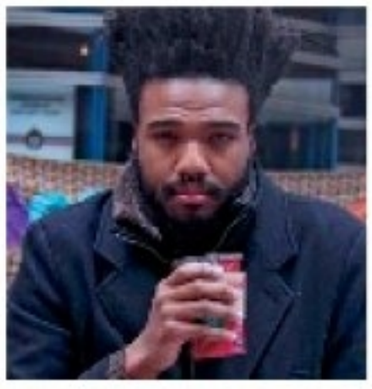
"I'm here for justice and to stand for black people. I'm here for the future generations to have a right to be who they are without fear for their lives."

Lena Peters has been at the protest since it began Sunday and has watched it evolve.

"The first night we were unsure but dedicated, and now there's a real sense of community — and that's the point. The people who are here are really passionate and dedicated to bettering lives for black people."

T'Mikah Fridal came to police headquarters with her dog Iris to lend her support for the protest and stand up for basic human rights. That's something everyone should do, she said.

"There are voices not being heard, and although it might not be a passion for you, we all need to come together."



Arden Maalik said he's protesting the disrespect police showed for Andrew Loku's life.

"This is a really historic moment for Toronto, for black activist communities," he said. "This is the first time a police headquarters is being occupied and a black organization is occupying a space such as this."

Chrys Saget hopes Torontonians who hear about the protest learn more about why it's happening. She invites people to come to the protest to learn more.

"So far, we've been met with silence and violence. I want people to go and do their research."

Roxanne Garraway said the protest is about taking power back from a society that "undermines our culture and polices our bodies."

"I feel it's important for our community to reaffirm itself, important to reaffirm our strength, to reaffirm our worth and to reaffirm each other."

Protesters crash Ottawa City Hall in solidarity

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

The loud chants of "black lives matter" interrupted a council meeting Wednesday morning, as about two-dozen protesters marched into Ottawa City Hall.

Security stalled the megaphone- and placard-wielding group, which was yelling, "No justice, no peace, no racist-ass police."

The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) organized the march. The group was collecting donations for Black Lives Matter Toronto and making noise around the deaths of two Canadian black men shot by police: Andrew Loku in Toronto and Jermaine Carby in Brampton.

"This is a national issue. Black Lives Matter Toronto is not just talking about things happening in Toronto. They're talking about things happening all over this country," said Vanessa Dorimain, vice-president of university affairs at SFUO. She said city politicians have remained "silent" on the issue.

At least a half-dozen police officers arrived, including tactical officers, but the group eventually left without incident.

Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney addressed the crowd.

"Safety is an issue for everyone, but not everyone is treated equally," she said through a megaphone. "We're thinking about what's happening in Toronto."

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vanessa Dorimain of the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa leads the protest Wednesday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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MUSIC

Prince concerts announced

Prince will take the stage in Toronto this Friday for two newly announced shows.

A post on Prince's official Twitter account revealed Wednesday that the pop superstar would perform at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts on Friday.

The shows are slated to take place at 7 and 10 p.m.

Tickets for the Toronto shows go on sale Thursday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Planners study relief line options

Those sardined on their commute downtown or left waiting on the subway platform while headed home will understand why city and transit officials have long said Toronto's overcrowded subway system is in need of immediate relief.

For years, there has been talk of a downtown relief line — the DRL for short — running in a U-shape to mimic the Yonge-University line and allow riders travelling along the Bloor-Danforth line, downtown streetcar routes, or those walking or biking from further east and west another option to get in and out of the downtown core. The ultimate goal has always been to ease congestion on the original Yonge-University "U," which is running over capacity.

City planners have been busy studying the alignment for a relief line. Part of that work includes testing how it might interact with other transit plans on the map, including GO Transit expansion and Mayor John Tory's SmartTrack plan.

A staff report to Tory's executive committee recently outlined six different options for the first, eastern leg of the relief line.

The executive committee agreed earlier this month that Pape to Queen is the preferred corridor, voting to advance that option. Council must still confirm that decision at their next meeting, which begins March 31. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayor John Tory estimates 300,000 expat Canadians work in the U.S., and will be urging them to come home when he travels to San Francisco in April. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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U.S. politics a reason to come home

SILICON VALLEY

John Tory to tout Ontario's tech sector at April meeting

Move to Canada, and specifically southern Ontario, to get away from "divisive" U.S. politics, Toronto Mayor John Tory plans to tell high-tech talent in California's Silicon Valley next month.

Tory revealed his plan to the Greater Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, according to prepared remarks for a Wednesday lunch speech touting the high-tech corridor between Kitchener and Toronto.

The mayor said that on his April 4 to 6 trip to San Francisco and Silicon Valley he will make the case for U.S. companies and venture capital to invest in the Toronto area.

Tory noted an estimated 300,000 expat Canadians work in Silicon Valley and "more than 50 per cent of U.S. innovation is initiated by immigrants to that country and first-generation Americans."

"That is a huge opportunity for us to attract knowledge workers to Canada," Tory notes.

"We have all been watching the divisive politics happening to our south, and there is growing evidence that it is causing many U.S. residents to look seriously at Canada as an option.

"You may think I'm joking, but I'm not. Just last week, Waterloo-based company Sortable put out a recruitment ad featuring Donald Trump's face and asking the question 'Is it time to move back to Canada?'"

"While we're in the U.S., we'll be asking that same question. And we will be celebrating the diversity of our ecosystem."

Remarks about Muslims by Trump, the bombastic billionaire seeking the Republican presidential nomination, and by some of his rivals have fuelled jokes and some serious talk about moderate Americans fleeing north.

Last month, amid Trump's strong showing in Super Tuesday primary votes, Google reported that searches for "How can I move to Canada" spiked by 350 per cent in four hours. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Waterloo-based tech company created an online job recruitment ad, featuring a photo of Republican presidential nomination hopeful Donald Trump, asking Americans if they want to move to Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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Female comedians are no joke

COMICS

Crimson Wave co-host has a list of the top funny women

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Sick of seeing all-male comedy lineups, and tired of hearing the excuse that there just aren't that many women doing stand-up, Natalie Norman has compiled a list of 140 of Toronto's best female comedians.

Maybe someone could print it out and stick it in a binder. Ba dum ching.

Mitt Romney jokes aside, Norman says there are so many funny women in Toronto who aren't getting their due.

Norman, co-host of the Crimson Wave comedy show, isn't sure why comedy clubs are still boy's clubs. "I think it has to do with how our society is set up — and I know that's a cliché," she said.

Some audiences will recoil at a raunchy comedy routine delivered by a woman, but howl if the same joke comes from a man, she said. But, things are changing as more women enter comedy and begin to host shows of their own.

Norman's list of female comics ranges in age and style. Some are clean, some dirty. Some have been in the business for decades, others are rookies. All are hilarious and she included Twitter handles and contact info, so it's easy for promoters to check out their material and book them.

It's a welcome development for Camille Côté, a local comedian who also runs a show of her own, booking a diverse group of comics.

She doesn't understand how male show bookers could say, with a straight face, that they can't find enough female comedians. "I find that hard to believe, because I know a lot of funny women," Côté said. "I think that's a really a stupid excuse."

Toronto comedian Camille Côté is among the 140 female comics on Natalie Norman's list. Côté will be hosting a show Wednesday at the Blue Nile Restaurant on the Danforth. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

THREE COMEDIANS WHO MADE THE LIST

Steph Tolev is a stand-up comedian who recently released an album called Hot 'n Hungry. She's one half of the comedy duo LadyStache. Find her on Twitter @StephTolev.

Steph Tolev one half of LadyStache. TWITTER

Jess Beaulieu is a feminist comedian and co-host of The Crimson Wave, a comedy show "with no rape jokes." Find her on Twitter: @msjessbeaulieu.

Jess Beaulieu is co-host of The Crimson Wave. TWITTER

Aisha Brown is a comedian with the comedy collective Runnin' At the Mouth. She performs regularly in Toronto. Find her on Twitter: @Aieeesha

Aisha Brown of Runnin' At the Mouth. TWITTER

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An injection kit is shown at Insite, a supervised facility in Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

City may add three supervised sites

DOWNTOWN

Suburban drug users still at risk, however, critics contend

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The city is considering creating three supervised injection sites in downtown Toronto, but community health-care providers in Scarborough say drug users in the suburbs remain at risk.

"We do serve a vulnerable population, some of them who could have serious drug abuse problems," said Kim Cook, the vice president of community health at the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities.

"Having a safe injection site — at least one — would really help."

The city's board of health approved a proposal to integrate injection services into health-care clinics at three locations — Queen Street West, Central Toronto and South Riverdale.

The locations were chosen based on high rates of intravenous drug use and associated high-risk behaviours, like overdoses and public injections, said a Toronto Public Health spokesperson.

Supervised sites have been proven to reduce overdose rates, as well as the spread of blood-borne diseases like hepatitis and HIV.

However, a feasibility study indicated users would not travel more than 10 blocks to access injection sites.

> **"Transportation is a huge barrier for most ... people.**
> Kim Cook of Scarborough

That's a problem for Scarborough, Cook said, as the Riverdale site is much further away.

"It's a long distance away. Transportation is a huge barrier for most of these people," she said.

In a statement to Metro, a Toronto Public Health spokesperson said there are no plans to add additional sites in the suburbs at this time.

According to a recent report, as many as 200 people die from overdoses every year in Toronto.

More than half polled in T.O. back idea of injection facilities

Public approval of supervised injection sites in Toronto is at its highest since 2012, according to the results of a poll released Wednesday.

Torontonians' opinion in favour of the sites appears to be growing as the city moves to establish three supervised injection sites downtown.

The majority of those polled, 57 per cent, agree with having supervised injection sites downtown, according to the Forum Research Inc. poll conducted over random telephone interviews Tuesday. Its results are based on a sample of 908 randomly selected Torontonians and are considered accurate plus or minus three per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Last year, a poll by the same company found 43 per cent agreed with them. In 2012, the approval rate was 44 per cent.

The poll sampled 908 residents and found that younger, wealthier and better-educated people — as well as those in downtown, where the sites would be — supported them.

"It appears that harm reduction is more important to Toronto citizens than enforcement and prohibition," said Lorne Bozinoff, Forum Research Inc. president, in a news release.

"The opioid crisis has become more critical just in the past year and has raised awareness of intravenous drug use."

Bozinoff said a change in attitude followed the change in federal government in the fall.

In announcing the new sites' plan earlier this month, city officials cited the new Liberal government, which supports it, as a spark for the initiative.

The Toronto-wide survey found 62 per cent of respondents aged 18 to 34 (the poll's youngest age group) approved of the sites planned for the city's core. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Making space for 'positive stories'

COMMUNITY

Local Muslims challenge hate by encouraging conversation

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Local young Muslims are organizing a series of events to combat mounting Islamophobic sentiments in the wake of terrorist attacks.

The Night of Empowerment events, planned to take place in Toronto, across Canada and in parts of the United States, aim to spur broader conversations of inclusion and tolerance regardless of religion or cultural background.

Acts of hate especially against Muslims have been on the rise since the 9/11 attacks, said Farheen Khan, one of the event's organizers.

"People are blaming all Muslims every time an attack happens," she said, referencing this week's attacks in Brussels and others before.

"Then you have people like Donald Trump, whose rhetoric are only adding fuel to the fire," she said. "We need to challenge that. We are hoping to create a space for positive stories from Muslims to be shared."

Khan, who was an MP candidate in last year's federal election, said communities still harbour negative stereotypes against Muslims. As a woman wearing a hijab, she mostly encountered positive responses while canvassing for votes, but there are still those who "seem to be afraid of me."

"We want to be able to challenge what people are seeing on TV," she said. "We're just everyday human beings — 99 percent of Muslims in the world are not terrorists."

Khan and her colleagues have been running a blog, Muslimsactually.com, publishing stories of love, generosity and compassion. They're partnering with another group, the Uniting Muslims and Allies for Humanity, in running these series of events bringing together humanitarians, artists, politicians and social advocates.

The ultimate goal of these series is to encourage community members to treat everyone with respect and dignity, she said.

"What worries me most is this idea of 'othering' people, saying you're not one of us," she said. "As we grow as a community, we want to be as inclusive as possible."

WHERE & WHEN

The Night of Empowerment takes place this Friday 6 p.m. at Artscape Young Place. Humanitarian aid volunteer Tia Tariq will be among the speakers.

Farheen Khan says she's disheartened negative feelings toward the Muslim community seem to be growing. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

THORNHILL

High school vice-principal charged with sexual assault

Police say the vice-principal of a Thornhill high school has been arrested in connection with an alleged sexual-assault incident involving a former student.

According to a released statement, investigators with York Regional Police's Special Victims Unit arrested the suspect without incident Tuesday after receiving a tip earlier in the month. Police would not specify when the alleged incident took place.

Paul Paterson, 40, from Richmond Hill, is charged with one count of sexual assault and one count of sexual exploitation.

The accused currently works at St. Roberts Catholic High School, located near Leslie Street and Highway 407 in Markham. He is believed to have worked at the school at the time of the incident, and appeared in a Newmarket court Wednesday.

Investigators ask anyone with information to call police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7075, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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POLICE WARN COFFEE TOSSER WHO WENT VIRAL

A woman who pitched two cups of coffee at a man when he confronted her for using a handicapped parking spot outside a Tim Hortons received a police warning after a video of the incident garnered international attention.

Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said the videographer, Ryan Favro, declined to press a criminal complaint but officers still paid a visit to the woman.

"We've cautioned her for assault and parking in a disabled spot, which is really what we can do under the circumstances," Pugash said.

He declined to name the woman. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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TTC gears up for Presto switchover

TRANSIT

Entire system to be replaced by mid-2017

The new fare gates at the TTC's Main station at Main Street and Danforth Avenue. MELISSA RENWICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Main Station on the Bloor-Danforth subway line can boast some of the TTC's most modern infrastructure now that the recently installed fare gates are accepting Presto cards.

The Presto function was enabled Tuesday morning following a weekend software update, confirmed TTC spokesman Brad Ross.

"It's a soft launch," he said. "This being the first one, we want to make sure we get it all right."

Once the TTC and Presto are confident everything's working properly, the rollout on the rest of the system should be smooth and there will be an official announcement, he added.

The TTC expects the entire system will have the new fare gates by the middle of 2017, although Presto will be available across the system by the end of the year.

About 900 to 1,000 fare gates will replace the TTC's old turnstiles at staffed entrances and the unstaffed high gates. There are six Presto-enabled gates at Main Station and two gates that accept a Metropass swipe.

The TTC has budgeted $43 million in the 2016 and 2017 capital budget to buy the new fare gates, remove the existing turnstiles and maintain them for the first two years.

Stations will all get wider, fully accessible fare gates to allow scooters, strollers and other assistive devices to enter.

Presto access is already available at 26 TTC stations and on the streetcars.

The TTC will stop selling tokens by the end of this year, and it will stop accepting them by the middle of next year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Daughter charged in mom's death

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

What first appeared to be another pedestrian death in Toronto Tuesday has taken a grisly turn, and may in fact be a case of matricide.

According to police, 65-year-old Eleanor Campbell was allegedly struck by a vehicle in the parking lot of Leon's Furniture on Suntract Road shortly after 2 p.m.

She was discovered on the ground by paramedics and died at the scene.

Her daughter, 43-year-old Michelle Campbell, has been taken into custody and charged with second-degree murder.

Police allege Michelle "deliberately" hit her mother with the vehicle.

She was expected in court Wednesday.

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Kipling Station to Lake Shore Boulevard

199B **Finch Rocket**
York University to Scarborough Centre Station via Finch Station

199C **Finch Rocket**
Finch Station to Morningside Heights

Visit ttc.ca for details.

Henry Luyombya, a community activist in Toronto. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Ignorance is not bliss in this case

HEALTH

General lack of understanding leads to stigma around AIDS

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Ignorance is to blame for the ongoing stigma around HIV-AIDS in Toronto's racialized communities, a new report has shown.

For the past three years, the Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment has studied the perception of HIV-AIDS among Toronto's Asian, black and Latino communities.

For many in those groups, HIV-AIDS is seen as "an invisible" problem, said Henry Luyombya, a community activist and co-ordinator of the study.

"There are no visible statistics, there are no HIV champions, no opinion leaders to talk about it," he said, adding the lack of knowledge undermines prevention, testing, treatment and care.

"People sort of thought HIV is in Africa, in the Caribbeans. So, that invisibility creates a circle of revolving stigma stemming from the lack of a supportive environment."

Luyombya has experienced the effects of that stigma firsthand.

He immigrated to Toronto from Uganda 10 years ago, after being diagnosed with HIV.

Luyombya said people stigmatized him because of his personal experiences and his work as an advocate for marginalized populations — from drug users and homeless people to immigrants and LGBT members.

"Some people even still think HIV is a gay disease. There's a deep-rooted homophobia," he said.

Luyombya said research like that being done by the Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment can help change people's views about the disease and create a safer environment for everyone living in the city.

Study participants — drawn from faith-based organizations, social justice sectors and people living with HIV — are expected to help educate and engage residents about HIV prevention.

"We want these community leaders will be agents of change where they live," Luyombya said.

GAIRDNER AWARDS

Two noted for HIV-AIDS work

Two pioneering researchers in the HIV-AIDS field are among this year's winners of the prestigious Canada Gairdner Awards, handed out each year with $100,000 cheques.

Dr. Frank Plummer is the recipient of the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award, which honours a Canadian who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in medicine and medical science.

The scientist, academic and former head of the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg is being recognized for "groundbreaking research" he conducted in Africa that helped in understanding HIV transmission.

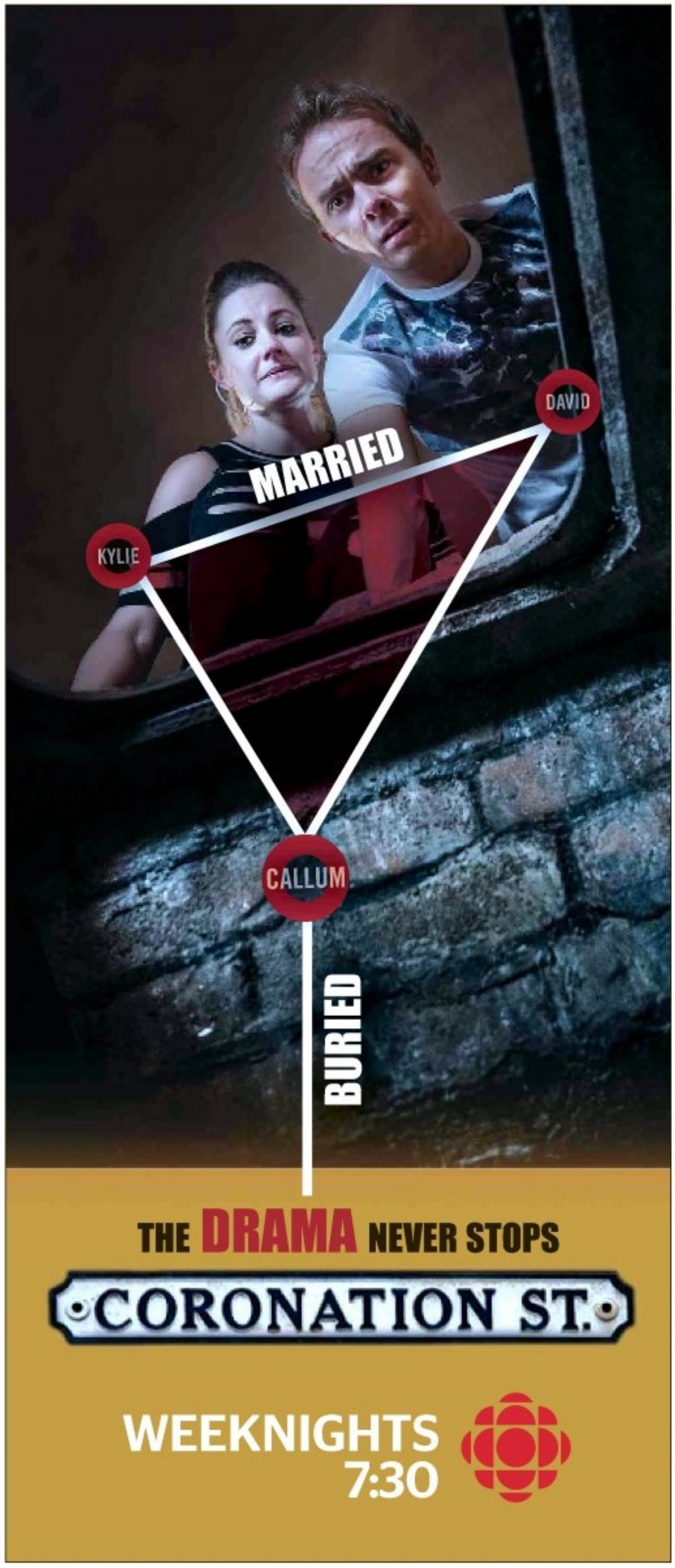
With support from the University of Manitoba, Plummer conducted research throughout the 1980s on a large group of sex workers in Nairobi, Kenya.

He discovered that two-thirds of them had HIV-AIDS. Meanwhile, despite multiple exposures, about 10 per cent of the sex workers were not infected by HIV. The identification of "natural resistance" to HIV was able to guide strategies in vaccine development.

Dr. Anthony Fauci was named recipient of the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award, which recognizes an individual responsible for a scientific advancement that has made a significant impact on health in the developing world.

Fauci, director of the U.S.-based National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was honoured for "critical contributions" made to understanding how HIV destroys the body's immune defences.

He played a pivotal role in directing research that led to the development of antiretroviral drug combinations, transforming the lives of people infected by HIV. He also was one of the main architects of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tributes to Ford are over the top

OPINION

Remember the former mayor, but do so accurately

Matt Elliott

Rob Ford. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Like any person felled by cancer, former Toronto mayor Rob Ford deserves our sympathy. To suggest otherwise would be insensitive.

But it's not insensitive to think that plans announced to effectively give Ford the municipal equivalent of a state funeral — he'll lie in repose at city hall next week — are over-the-top.

That honour should have a high bar for entry. It should be reserved for political leaders who set an example for all those who seek to hold powerful positions in the future.

And while I believe that Ford's political influence will last in and around Toronto city hall, his record within the building simply doesn't rate. Even his own official city biography only mentions a handful of achievements from the first year of his term. The remainder of his mayoralty might as well not exist.

It's no mystery as to why. Ford spent the rest of his time in office failing to live up to the demands of the position.

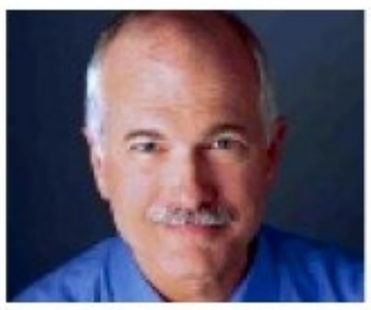
Despite tributes this week suggesting he was a tireless servant of the city, Ford often did not show up for work. He found himself on the losing end of most council votes, demonstrating repeatedly that he had no interest in real leadership. And even though he's now being called the "people's mayor", it should be damn challenging to overlook the attitude he had toward gay and non-white people.

And of course, Ford ultimately found himself stripped of many of the powers granted to the office he's now set to be honoured for holding. His battles with addiction aside, those present at the time will remember Ford lost his powers mostly because he lied and kept lying.

In death, mourning comes easy. Real honours, however, should remain hard to earn. As a man dead too soon, Ford deserves our sadness — but as mayor he did not earn our tributes.

THE HONOUR OF LYING IN STATE

Rob Ford's body lying in state at Toronto City Hall will be an unprecedented event. That honour has only been afforded three times before. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jack Layton

In 2011, the body of federal NDP leader and former Toronto councillor Jack Layton lay at city hall after former prime minister Stephen Harper declared a state funeral for the beloved politician who spent much of his life in this city. Layton's state funeral and lying-in-state were a rare exception to federal tradition typically reserved for current and former prime ministers, governor generals and sitting ministers.

Samuel McBride

Samuel McBride was the first Toronto mayor to die in office in November 1936 after suffering a stroke at age 70. His body lay in repose the day before his funeral, the casket positioned at the bottom of Old City Hall's grand staircase. "Citizens from every walk of life and from ever denomination, in spontaneous communal mourning" attended that day, according to an article in the Toronto Star.

Donald Summerville

In 1963, mayor Donald D. Summerville died of a heart attack just a year into his term. The 48-year-old collapsed off the ice following a charity hockey game. Two days later, thousands turned out to the second-floor council chamber at Old City Hall, where Summerville lay in repose before a funeral. "The city clerk's office said citizens were filing through the council chamber at the rate of 3,600 an hour, or one every second," the Star wrote.

Kitty to get prosthetics

VANCOUVER

Rescued cat to be fitted out with blades as back limbs

When a deformed feral kitten was discovered on a rural property in Langley, B.C., Cassidy the cat's rescuer says he was scooting around on his front legs with his bum in the air like a "reverse velociraptor."

The nine-week-old tabby, missing both hind legs, will soon be fitted with artificial leg implants in a groundbreaking procedure.

"Definitely this is cutting-edge technology," said Dr. Mike Higgins, a neurologist with Canada West Veterinary Specialists.

"We're learning a lot from human medicine that is translating into animals."

The black-and-white kitten received Botox injections at the Vancouver animal hospital on Wednesday as preparation for attaching prosthetic blades to his back limbs. The procedure will be the first of its kind in the world on a cat, Higgins said.

Veterinarian Dr. Mike Higgins examines Cassidy, an eight-month-old rescue cat with no rear legs. She will soon be fitted with artificial leg implants. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cassidy was rescued by Shelley Roche, who believes the kitten may have lost its legs as a result of its mother chewing to free its body from a knotted umbilical cord at birth.

The cost of his rehabilitation has been $10,000, she said, though the Vancouver vets offered their services pro bono.

Another specialist is already working with the animal to make a 3D-printed model for the prostheses. The surgery will take place at North Carolina State University in Raleigh in two to four months, when Cassidy is close to being fully grown.

The American surgeon has unique experience in remedying cats and dogs with congenital malformations, Higgins said.

The blade device is advanced because its design conforms more naturally to the limbs, allowing more normal movement, he said. Similar models are already in use by people, he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shelly Roche with her rescue cat, Cassidy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JIM HILLYER

Leaders mourn Alta. MP

A day that normally would have seen parliamentarians pulling out their sharpest partisan darts was instead replaced Wednesday by a rare coming-together of MPs after the sudden death of Alberta Conservative MP Jim Hillyer.

The 41-year-old died in his office after returning to Ottawa this week following surgery to treat an infection in his leg.

He came back for the Liberal budget on Tuesday, but what should have been the first day of debate on it was instead deferred to honour Hillyer's life and work.

Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose wiped away tears as she rose, referring to Hillyer as a colleague and friend with a goofy sense of humour who used his determination to champion causes including cancer advocacy and justice system reform.

She described him as a dedicated husband and father and a man of strong faith and conviction.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, said there was a lesson to be learned from Hillyer's death — that MPs should spend more time getting to know one another.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada

A 'gaping hole' in Liberal fiscal plan

THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Grits forced to defend lack of schedule for nixing deficit

One day after the Liberals tabled an inaugural budget packed with new spending, the government found itself on the defensive over the lack of a firm plan to eventually eliminate billions in looming deficits.

The Liberal budget projected $113.2 billion in red ink over the next five years, due in large part to increased funding in numerous areas. On the other side of the balance sheet, however, there was no indication of when, how or if the budget might eventually be balanced.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau began the process of selling their fiscal plan — and found themselves defending the lack of solid fiscal targets.

Pressed on the issue during a Radio-Canada interview, Trudeau maintained that the objective of the budget was not "to reach some mathematical balance" but to provide "optimism and trust" to Canadians.

Morneau later said the government's goal "is to get to a balanced budget over approximately" five years — depending on how much economic growth the Liberal blueprint generates.

Both men argued that some of the budget's biggest spending, such as on infrastructure and the revamped multibillion-dollar Canada child benefit, would generate much-needed growth and eventually balance the books.

"Our priority right now is to make those investments that can make a difference," said Morneau, who was also asked if the government would stop spending at some point if the growth fails to kick in.

"Our goal is to focus on where we're at each year as we put forth the budget.... We'll worry about budget 2017 in 2017."

The Liberal numbers also include a $6-billion adjustment for risk, which could ultimately help the government beat low fiscal expectations and balance the books even earlier than forecast.

Experts like former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page called the budget's lack of formal targets "a major, strategic failure" for the government.

"It was just a gaping hole.... You can't have a budget without a fiscal plan," said Page.

The government doesn't necessarily have to set a timetable to rebalance the budget, Page said, but big-ticket spending carries with it a responsibility to explain where the money is going to come from.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shakes hands with Minister Bill Morneau after his budget speech.

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ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

29.4B
projected federal budget deficit in 2016-17

8.4B
spending on Indigenous Affairs, including education and water quality

1.15B
increase to Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors

11.9B
new infrastructure spending over five years

3.74B
new, tweaked tax measures aimed at the middle class and families with children

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Spend neglects First Nations kids: Critics

The federal government is determined to overhaul the First Nations child-welfare system, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett says — even as critics focused on the issue say the budget fell well short of what's needed.

It's also necessary to increase capacity so child-welfare services can be properly delivered and controlled by First Nations themselves, Bennett said.

"We are very interested in working together to have less children in foster care, get children back to their communities."

Advocate Cindy Blackstock has a different assessment of the government's level of funding, which includes an initial outlay of $71 million in 2016-17.

As president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Blackstock spent nearly a decade fighting the federal government over what has long been characterized as the perpetual underfunding of reserve care.

On Tuesday, despite a multibillion-dollar federal budget windfall for indigenous people, including First Nations education, infrastructure and social housing, Blackstock assailed the government for failing to spend the needed $200 million on indigenous child welfare services this year.

Cindy Blackstock, president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde also urged the government to ensure the money flows for child welfare.

"We've got to take what is there now and get it out as soon as possible," Bellegarde said.

The system itself needs to be redesigned, he acknowledged.

"It is not just about the resources," Bellegarde said. "That's one piece, a very key piece. First Nations controlled jurisdiction over child and family services, we say — not only on-reserve but as well as off-reserve."

Funding for First Nations issues was a central theme of the Liberal government's first budget, featuring $8.4 billion in spending commitments over multiple years for education, water, housing and other services. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MILITARY

No perfect victory for veterans

The new federal budget showers the country's veterans with cash, but questions lingered Wednesday about the details and just how far the money will go toward improving the lives of former soldiers.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau's fiscal plan delivers $5.6 billion — $3.7 billion booked in the current fiscal year — for better programs and services for the most critically injured former military members. The money will be spread out over decades.

One of the Liberal promises to veterans in the last election was to return to a pension-for-life system — or provide soldiers a choice between that and a lump-sum option. There was no sign of such a change in Tuesday's budget, but Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr says the government still backs the promise.

Advocates were left wondering about the pledge, in part because the budget raised the lump-sum disability award for wounds suffered in the line of duty to a maximum of $360,000 next year from the current $310,000. That's far below other countries such as Britain, where the payout is closer to $1 million.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Aid money could help win security council seat

Canada needs to show that it is a generous aid donor if it wants to win a seat on the UN Security Council, says the international development minister. Yet Marie-Claude Bibeau says that doesn't mean committing Canada to the UN's development spending goal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hasty killings in Belgium

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

On day of mourning, details emerge of attackers

As police hunted for the surviving Brussels bomber, evidence mounted Wednesday that the same Daesh (ISIL) cell carried out the attacks in both Paris and Brussels, and that the militants may have launched this week's slaughter in haste because they feared authorities were closing in on them.

On a day of mourning across Belgium following Tuesday's bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that killed 31 people and wounded more than 270, new information emerged about the four attackers.

- European security officials said one of the suicide bombers was Najim Laachraoui, a Moroccan-born Belgian whom police have hunted as the suspected bomb-maker in the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris that killed 130.
- The other two suicide bombers were Belgian-born brothers, Ibrahim El Bakraoui, and younger brother Khalid, both known to the police as common criminals, not anti-Western radicals.
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ibrahim El Bakraoui was caught in June 2015 near Turkey's border with Syria and deported, at his own request, to the Netherlands, with Ankara warning Dutch and Belgian officials that he was a "foreign terrorist fighter." But other Turkish officials said he was released from Dutch custody due to lack of evidence of involvement in extremism.

Details of the investigation from chief prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw pointed to a rising sense of panic among the three bombers. An unidentified fourth man who was shown in airport video surveillance footage remains at large after Van Leeuw said his suitcase bomb failed to detonate properly. Authorities say he was the man in a light jacket and hat on the far right of the video footage. Van Leeuw said the bomb did partially explode after police had already evacuated the terminal. It injured no one.

The prosecutor said a laptop seized from a garbage can on a street outside the brothers' last known address contained a message purportedly from Ibrahim El Bakraoui that indicated he was expecting to be arrested following Friday's capture in Brussels of the suspected ringleader of the Paris attacks, Salah Abdeslam.

Police were drawn to the brothers' apartment Tuesday night thanks to a tip from a taxi driver who had unwittingly delivered them to the airport, Van Leeuw said. Inside the residence they found an apparent bomb-making factory, including 33 pounds of homemade explosives and nails for use as shrapnel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldiers control passers by in Brussels on Wednesday, one day after attacks on the Brussels airport and a metro station. More than 30 people were killed in Tuesday's attack. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Woman in attacks photo is Indian flight attendant

A woman sitting bloodied and dazed just moments after the Brussels airport bombings was one of the most haunting images from the attacks. The woman has been identified as Nidhi Chaphekar, a Jet Airways flight attendant from Mumbai. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nidhi Chaphekar
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daesh trains 400 fighters to attack Europe

Daesh has trained at least 400 fighters to target Europe in deadly waves of attacks, deploying interlocking terror cells like the ones that struck Brussels and Paris with orders to choose the time, place and method for maximum carnage, officials say. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Brussels determined to defy extremists

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

'Life must go on,' despite fear amid terrorism

The first victim of the attacks to be named was **Adelma Marina Tapia Ruíz**, from Peru. She was the mother of twin girls, who were in the airport with her. Her husband and one daughter were injured. Right: People gather at a memorial in Brussels. CONTRIBUTED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Six-year-old Carlton Kahindi took the tea candle in his tiny hand and gently placed it on the makeshift memorial to victims of Belgium's attacks.

Though he could barely see from beneath a stocking cap, he knew his actions had meaning. That's why he was really careful.

"It's for the people who went to heaven," he said.

Thousands of people came to Brussels' central square on Wednesday, determined to defy extremists who would have them cower in fear. The city got back to work, if not back to normal.

Many of those laying flowers, lighting candles and scrawling messages of peace in chalk were children brought by parents who were seeking to explain that something terrible had happened. They wanted them to understand.

"I want him to still have faith in humanity," said Carlton's mother, Carole Kahindi.

Defiance and fear mingled in the minds of residents coming to terms with the violence that they had long expected, but had hoped wouldn't come.

"You can't protect yourself against terrorism. Are you going to stay at home today? Tomorrow? The day after tomorrow?" asked Dirk Verstraeten, 53, who was catching a bus to work. "Life must go on."

A line swelled outside the central train station in Brussels as travellers lined up to get their bags checked. Soldiers stood guard every few feet as half a dozen military trucks idled nearby.

The mood on the street was jittery. Several metro stations were still closed, roads were snarled with traffic. Sirens repeatedly wailed. Yet everywhere around the city people just insist that this won't break them, even though it's impossible to put it out of mind.

"I am not afraid, because terrorists want you to be afraid. That's the thing: they win if we get afraid to leave home," said student Alexandra Cyran.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONFLICT

Canada not at war with Daesh: Trudeau

The Liberal government says Canada is not at war with Islamic militants — a view not shared by ally France.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion rejected the "at war" label just one day after the bombings in Brussels that killed more than 30 people.

After the attacks, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls used the term Tuesday following a crisis meeting called by French President Francois Hollande.

"We are at war," said Valls. "We have been subjected for the last few months in Europe to acts of war." Added Hollande: "This war will be long."

The bombings in Brussels came four months after the attacks in Paris that left 130 dead.

The militant group known as Daesh has claimed responsibility for both incidents.

Trudeau, who made his comments during a CBC Radio interview, and Dion both said the conflict with Daesh does not fit the true definition of war.

"A war is something that can be won by one side or the other and there is no path for (Daesh) to actually win against the West," Trudeau said.

"They want to destabilize, they want to strike fear. They need to be stamped out."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM Justin Trudeau speaks at a press conference in Ottawa on Feb. 8, 2016. The government says Canada is not at war with Daesh — a view not shared by ally France. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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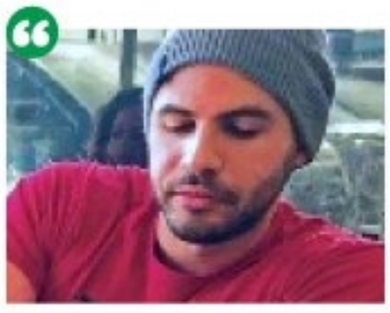
Candidate angers Muslims

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

Daesh doesn't represent Islam, advocates say



I was born and raised here. I see myself as an American ... There's nothing really different about us.
Omar Ghanim

A few miles from Disneyland is a place most California tourists never see. The signs along the thoroughfare suddenly switch to Arabic script advertising hookah shops, Middle Eastern sweets, halal meat and travel services.

In Little Arabia, flags from a half-dozen Muslim countries flap in a stiff breeze. Flying above them all is a giant American flag.

After Sen. Ted Cruz called for increased surveillance of Muslims in the U.S., this Muslim community and others like it defied the Republican presidential candidate and defended their commitment to the United States. The editor of an Arabic-language newspaper said Muslims are "already part of the country, whether he likes it or not."

Inside a Lebanese eatery called Forn Al Hara, immigrants from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq debated the latest political rhetoric from the GOP candidates.

"I was born and raised here. I see myself as an American," said Omar Ghanim, 23, who grew up in Southern California with parents of Palestinian heritage. "Everything's the same between me and the rest of the Americans out there. There's nothing really different about us."

Cruz's comments on Tuesday came hours after the deadly attacks at the Brussels airport and a subway station that killed dozens of people and wounded many more. Daesh claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Ghanim said the extremist group Daesh doesn't represent his faith. "We're a peaceful people. We're not violent."

Cruz said Tuesday that law enforcement should be empowered to "patrol and secure Muslim neighbourhoods before they become radicalized." Echoing earlier statements from rival Donald Trump, Cruz also said the U.S. should stop the flow of refugees from countries where Daesh has a significant presence.

Muslims across the country and groups including the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Anti-Defamation League condemned Cruz's statements. Many complained that the Islamic extremist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, and the intensifying rhetoric of the presidential campaign, have steadily ratcheted up animosity against American Muslims.

Ahmad Tarek Rashid Alam, publisher of the Arabic-language community newspaper The Arab World, comments on remarks made by Sen. Ted Cruz about Muslim Americans in the wake of terrorist attacks in Belgium. GILLIAN FLACCUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ahmad Tarek Rashid Alam, publisher of the weekly Arab World newspaper and one of the immigrants who helped build Little Arabia, said anti-Muslim statements are "nothing new."

"This has been going on in every Islamic neighbourhood for years," he said. "But now our kids are in the police, in the Army. Are they going to watch us?"

He said Cruz's remarks seemed aimed at exploiting prejudice to get votes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Jeb Bush endorses Ted Cruz

Republican Ted Cruz picked up a key endorsement Wednesday from Jeb Bush, who said their party must beat back "the divisiveness and vulgarity" of front-running New York billionaire Donald Trump.

Bush's endorsement came after Trump won the Republican primary in Arizona on Tuesday but lost the Utah caucus to Cruz, the first-term Texas senator and ultra-conservative beacon in a race for the party's presidential nomination that has caused a near civil war among Republicans.

Bush, once seen as the likely nominee but whose candidacy never gained momentum, tweeted Wednesday that Cruz is a "consistent, principled conservative who has shown he can unite the party." Bush added on Facebook that Republicans "must overcome the divisiveness and vulgarity Donald Trump has brought into the political arena" or risk losing to Hillary Clinton, the increasingly likely Democratic nominee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SURVIVOR

Brussels airport attack is second major bombing for teen

Surviving a major bombing is the extraordinary — and repeated — situation that one Utah teen can live to tell about.

Mason Wells, a 19-year-old from Sandy, Utah, is expected to make a full recovery from the bombing attack at the Brussels airport Tuesday, which left him with a surgery scar, a severed Achilles tendon, a head gash, shrapnel injuries and severe burns.

Wells had once again found himself at the centre of a major attack — standing within feet of a bomb that exploded at the Belgian airport. The blasts in the Belgian capital killed 34 people and wounded scores at the airport and a subway station.

Three years ago, Wells and his father felt the ground shake and narrowly escaped death from an April 2013 attack in the U.S., when a pressure-cooker bomb exploded a block away from where they were watching his mother run the Boston Marathon.

The former high school football and lacrosse player had four months left on his two-year Mormon mission, and was planning to major in engineering at the University of Utah next fall. He also wanted to reapply to the Naval Academy after barely missing the cut after high school, his father said.

His father said he woke up to the latest news on the TV before calling his son's mission president in France and found out his son was injured but alive. More than eight hours later, they finally spoke to their son, who was groggy and exhausted after surgery. The teen is in good spirits but his family is still figuring out when they'll get to see him, and if he'll finish his mission.

Other Mormon missionaries at the Brussels airport were also hospitalized. Richard Norby, 66, of Lehi, and Joseph Empey, 20, of Santa Clara, were with Wells and also hospitalized with serious injuries from the blast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mormon missionaries Mason Wells, 19, left, and Joseph Empey, 20, were injured in Tuesday's explosion at the Brussels airport. JOSEPH EMPEY/CHAD WELLS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TELEMEDICINE How this emerging health care career could be right for you. p07

HOSPITALITY Restaurateur Alex Sengupta highlights the connection between education and success. p08

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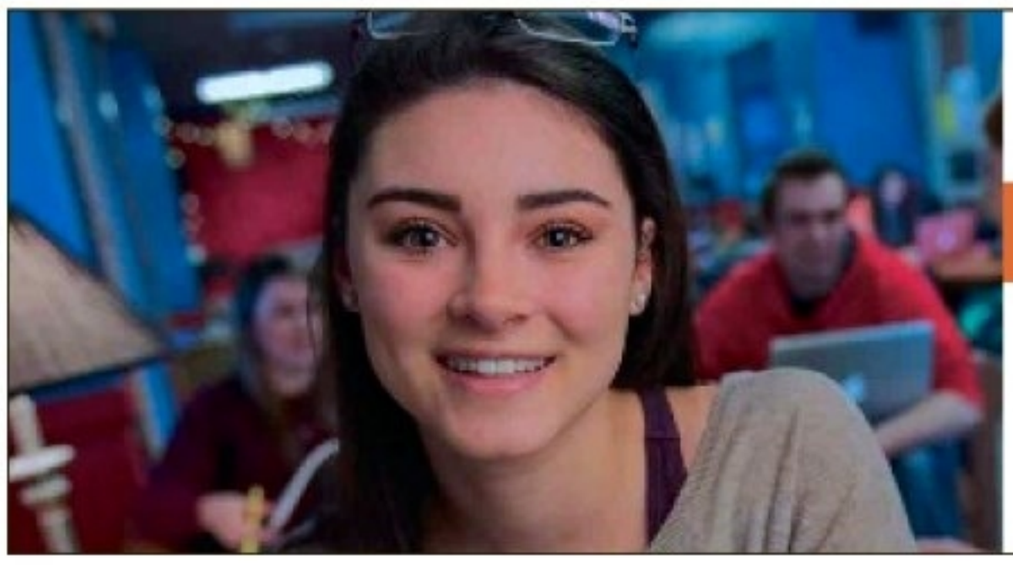
p11



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INSIGHT

Continuing Education Courses Help Bridge Skills Gaps

Despite a high number of post-secondary-educated applicants, today's employers struggle to fill vacancies. "You need to have an educational foundation plus a skill set," explains education expert Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, Dean of The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University. In order to close the skills gap, the unemployed and underemployed can acquire in-demand job skills through continuing education. "[Employers] spend a lot less time and money training than they did in the past," says Bountrogianni. "They need employees that are ready to hit the ground running."

Skills that are in demand

Whether for career advancement or a career change, continuing education learners should be strategic in the job skills they acquire. Bountrogianni highlights data analytics as an in-demand skill for graduates of math and technology. "We have all these big databases, and now there's a need for someone to use them," she says. As for specialists in communications, expertise in the promotional capabilities of Facebook and Twitter is key. "Social media skills and analytics, knowing how effective the use of social media is — that's very important," explains Bountrogianni. Expertise in filmmaking is also valuable for marketing professionals. "Being able to produce videos is a highly sought after skill."

Flexible learning with online education

For a successful career change, take initiative in expanding your job skills. "Employers want people who are willing to learn on their own time," Bountrogianni explains. Online learning offers students the flexibility to pick up job skills despite busy schedules. "Not all students can come downtown two nights a week," says Bountrogianni, who adds that today's online learning programs are just as rigorous as in-person college or university equivalents.

Dr. Marie Bountrogianni
Dean, The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University

"The preconception about online learning is that it's a bunch of notes on a computer," she says. "Digital learning has come a long way. There are videos, and the courses are interactive." Bountrogianni gives the example of a nursing school module that harnesses modern technologies like gaming. "You can actually do an eye exam [through] gaming. It's very realistic and very interactive."

Targeted education through experiential learning

Experiential learning is one of the latest innovative improvements transforming continuing education. The Chang School recently launched Experiential Learning Exchange (ELX), a flexible model where students have the opportunity to connect with industry experts in workshop-style master classes or one-on-one coaching sessions. "Students choose their own level of learning and depth of instruction," explains Bountrogianni. "They receive one-on-one coaching, enabling students to take advantage of the right expertise to help them achieve their learning goals." For example, a user experience expert can help select the best research methods for a target audience in just a few hours, or a communications professional can coach someone through crafting a persuasive press release.

Through focused training, employees can stay abreast of employers' needs. "When students ask me for career advice, I still advise them to study what they love. But, keep your eye on the labour market and augment your skills through either continuing education or another means."

Andrea Yu

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Meet Brittany, another Mohawk success story.

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Upgrade Your Communication Skills with Social Media Courses

As communication trends move toward the digital space, continuing education courses in social media help professionals stay relevant.

Laurie Taniguchi noticed that digital technologies were becoming an increasingly important part of her work as the Communication and Volunteer Coordinator of the St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club. She took a few continuing education courses in website design and copy editing before starting courses in George Brown College's Social Media Marketing Certificate. The certificate program develops students' skills by designing and implementing successful social media campaigns in six courses offered in-class or via online learning.

"Before taking these courses, I was wasting time on apps by not using them very effectively," Taniguchi says, who admits that she previously found herself falling into a social media vortex — needing a better way to manage her time and increase her effectiveness. "Now I have a better understanding of how to use apps like Hootsuite to schedule my posts."

Putting social media skills to use

Taniguchi completed social media marketing courses on campus during her evenings, citing Facebook and Twitter courses as the most practical and enjoyable. She explains how she put her newly acquired skills to use in solving a problem at work: "I thought it was a long shot, but I sent a tweet asking if anyone knew an architect that may be able to help us out with blueprints for a renovation. Within an hour, an architecture firm that had no previous connection to the Club phoned and asked us if they could donate their services to the project."

Flexibility in online learning

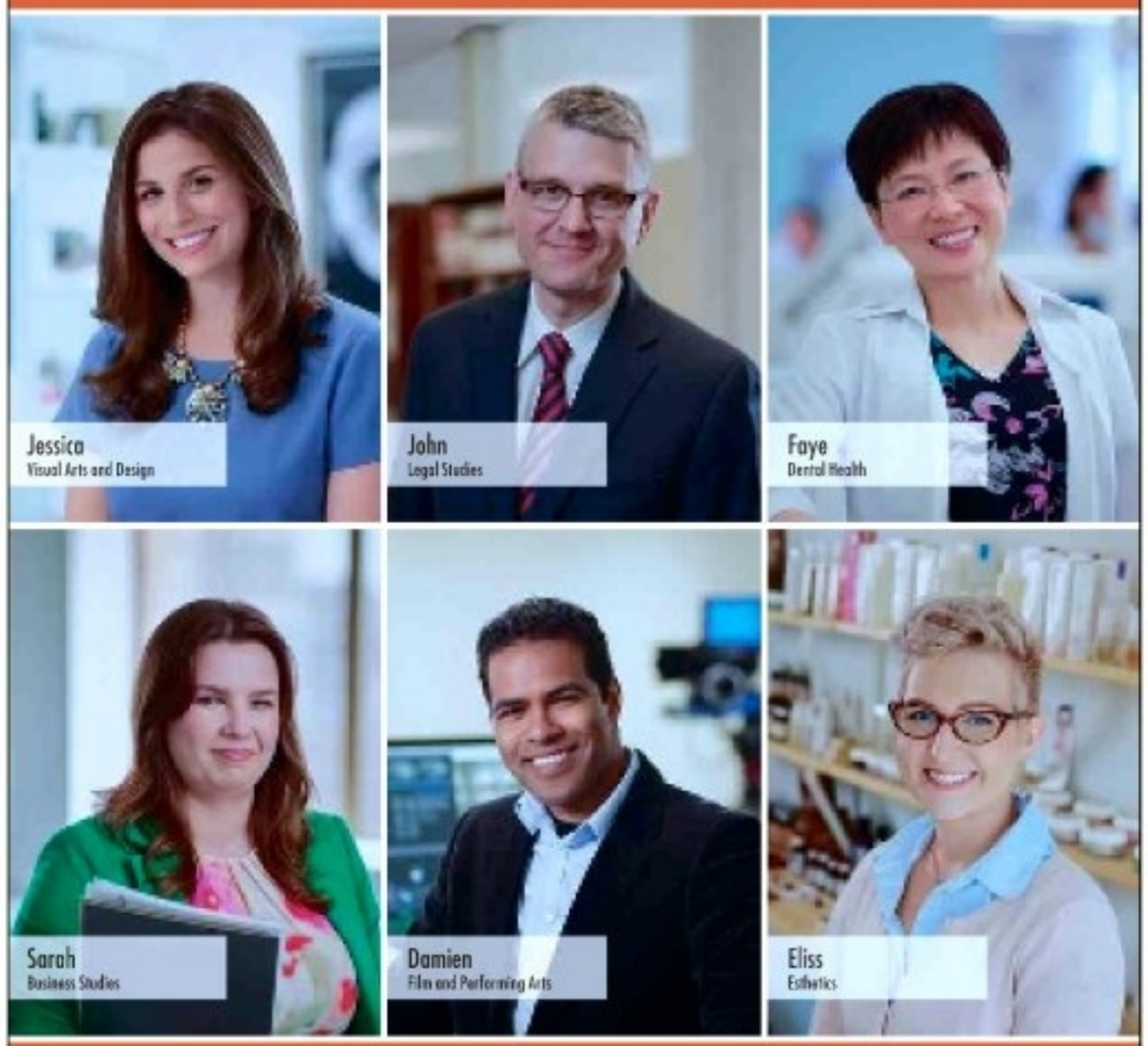
Unlike Taniguchi, TD Bank Strategic Communications & Creative Solutions Manager Kristen Coutts completed the Social Media Marketing Certificate online. "My days don't often go from 9–5," says Coutts, who also balances commitments like volunteering, marathon training, and time with loved ones. "Online learning made it easy for me to work around my own schedule while still being just as effective and personal as an in-class program."

> "Online learning made it easy for me to work around my own schedule while still being just as effective and personal as an in-class program."

After completing some of her initial courses, Coutts organized an internal viral campaign with TD Bank. "In order to create buzz and gain momentum around a new community page, I launched a contest using the principles I learned in my intro, Facebook, SEO, and Twitter courses," Coutts explains. She created quality content, paired it with an enticing prize, and used a variety of tactics — like great design and catchy copy while implementing SEO principles — in order to spread the word. "The campaign was a tremendous success," Coutts says. "Nothing like it was ever done before in the business I support."

Andrea Yu

LEARNING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



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INSIGHT

Accounting Certificates Offer Many Professionals a **Big Career Boost**

Nadine Petsche loved working with numbers so she thought accounting would be a good career fit — and she was right. Almost 30 years into her career, she is singing its praises.

Petsche, now Ontario's Director of Accounting Policy and Financial Reporting, says she has found great satisfaction in being able to help others make informed business decisions throughout her career.

Petsche notes how accountants can pursue opportunities in the public or private sector, at home and abroad, and can take on various levels of responsibility and influence.

"In addition to the flexibility that a career in accounting provides," she adds, "it is also a fairly well-compensated profession."

Petsche recommends that accountants embrace continuing education as a way to stay relevant in the workplace and valuable to their employers.

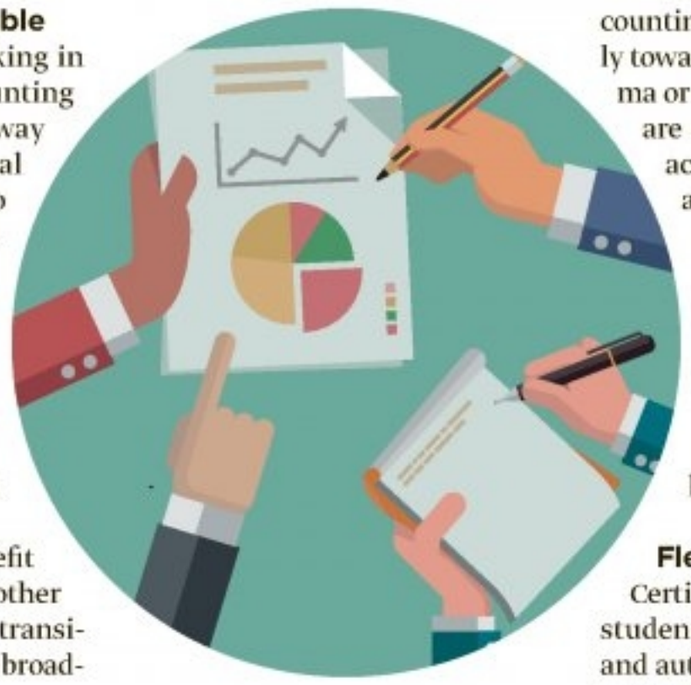
The benefits are undeniable

"For someone already working in the field, pursuing an accounting certificate may be an ideal way to demonstrate a personal desire to contribute more to the organization or aspire to a more senior position.

"An accounting certificate from a respected institution, combined with relevant practical experience on your CV are important considerations in the job selection process."

Just as accountants benefit from these programs, so do other professionals who want to transition into accounting or just broaden their skill set.

"In a competitive job market, and with disruptive technologies making an impact on nearly every industry, employers are looking for people who regularly invest in their skills and knowledge, and are ready and able to adapt," says Tracey Taylor-O'Reilly, founding Executive Director of the School of Continuing Studies at York University.



She and her colleagues oversee the Post-Graduate Certificate in Accounting, which is geared primarily toward people who have a diploma or degree in another field and are seeking solid grounding in accounting fundamentals — along with other skills that are critical to getting hired or promoted.

Included among those skills are problem solving, business acumen, written and verbal communications, and emotional intelligence to name a few.

Flexible learning options

Certification programs can give students the skills, credibility, and authority they need to pursue entry- and mid-level positions in accounting and finance.

Noting that not all positions require a Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) designation, Petsche advises potential students to take their career aspirations into consideration when deciding which accounting certificate to pursue.

The school's administrators realize most professionals lead busy lives so they have taken steps to ensure curriculums are flexible while preparing graduates for the next step in their careers. Students can pursue their studies in class, online, or a combination of both. Because students progress through the programs as a group, instructors are able to incorporate projects that practice skills learned in previous classes and enhance the professional competencies employers seek when hiring and promoting.

"I encourage employees to proactively seek out opportunities to further develop their skills and to demonstrate their competencies," says Petsche. "It's important to continue to grow throughout one's career."

Randi Druzin

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From attending meetings, to forecasting revenues and expenses, and being relied on to execute time-sensitive duties, Jill Parsonage's days are jam-packed. But, no matter how busy the Toronto-based accountant is — she makes time for professional development.

"There are always new developments in the industry," explains Parsonage, whose employer, SAS, requires her to devote 40 hours to professional development every year. "It's important to stay on top of changes so that you can provide the best possible services to your clients and the companies you work for."

Colleague and fellow accountant Stephen Lennie shares that view. "It's easy to fall out of touch, especially for the accountant who works in industry rather than at a firm," he says. "But you have to make sure that doesn't happen."

Dynamic possibilities

The Canadian CPA profession is bolstered by a professional culture of career-long learning through ongoing training. Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada) provides its members with many resources to help enhance their careers and professional growth, including conferences, courses, and webinars. The organization also has a career centre and a Women's Leadership Council.

Parsonage, who graduated from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management in 2009, has taken several courses offered by CPA Canada. Some are accounting-specific while others emphasize business success skills, like strategy and leadership that can be used by professionals in other industries as well.

Indeed, one among the many events to be held this year is a four-day multiphase workshop designed to meet the business needs of senior not-for-profit leaders. "Translating Strategy Into Action: A Guide for Senior Not-for-Profit Leaders" is scheduled for May 30-31 and Aug. 24-25, 2016 in Toronto.

CPA Canada offers courses on a wide range of subjects including those that focus on tax, accounting, business and finance, as well as strategic planning and management. Accountants in not-for-profit and other sectors can benefit from courses tailored to their specific needs, all eligible for CPD hours.

The organization also provides specialty post-CPA credentials in specific areas like forensic accounting and information technology. Requirements, prerequisites and hours vary from program to program.

To better accommodate accountants who, like Parsonage, have a packed schedule, the organization provides flexibility in its programs. Participants can study in classrooms, online (e-learning), or through a blend of both.

Looking out for Canadians

CPA Canada also takes an active interest in the financial well-being of all Canadians. In fact, it recently published a book aimed at individuals who are fifty-plus with a retirement plan that requires some work.

The book, *The Procrastinator's Guide to Retirement: How You Can Retire in 10 Years or Less*, was written by David Trahair, a CPA and the author of several personal-finance books. "Canadians are not irresponsible; it's just that life gets in the way of their plans to save," explains Trahair.

This CPA Canada initiative will certainly be well received because many people share Parsonage's view that "You can never stop learning."

By Randi Druzin

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INSIGHT

Advanced Degrees Leading Grads to Meaningful Career Opportunities

Hundreds of thousands of students with master's and doctoral degrees have graduated from Ontario universities over the past 10–13 years.

According to statistics provided by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), approximately 184,800 master's degrees and 26,700 doctoral degrees were awarded in Ontario from 2001 to 2013 — higher than any province in Canada.

Think of a graduating class, in that period, that exceeds the populations of city centres such as Burlington, Oakville, and Oshawa.

That's a force of bright, knowledgeable, and passionate graduates with advanced research and professional degrees. Their investment in graduate education is resulting in meaningful career opportunities that offer a strong earning potential.

Kirby Calvert, Emelia Ayipio Asamoah, and Rebecca MacPherson, graduates from Brock University in St. Catharines, On., are part of the impressive pool of recent graduates.

Each possess various skills required in the current marketplace and are highly motivated to be innovative and creative in ways that will better communities across Canada and the world.

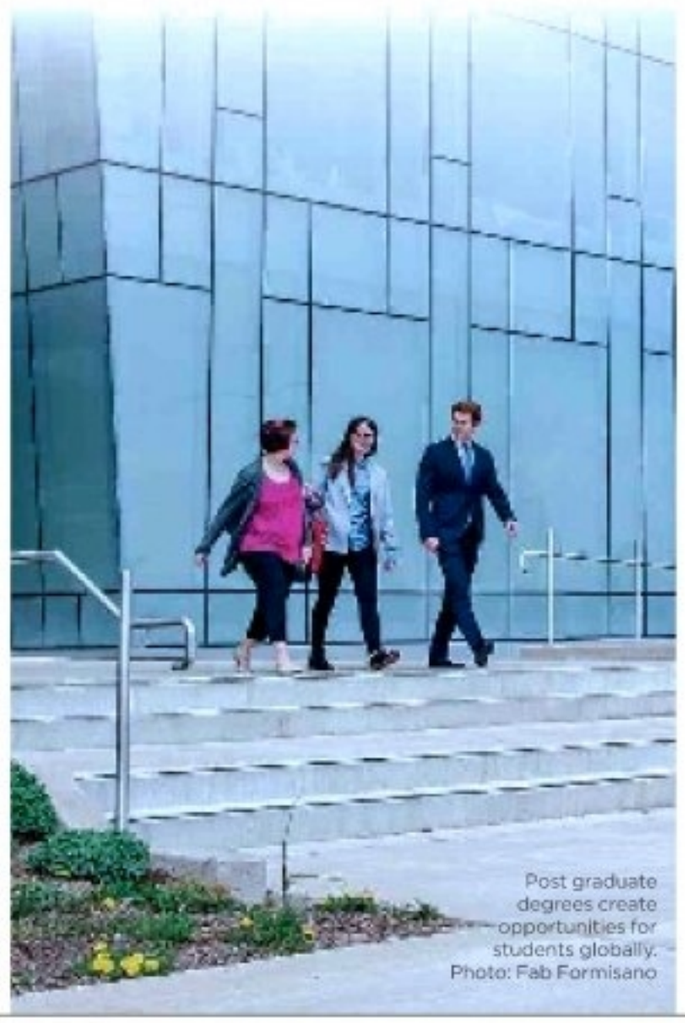
Kirby Calvert's master's degree in geography led him to Penn State to be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography. More recently, he's taken a position at University of Guelph.

"My time in graduate school was transformative. I was exposed to world class levels of thinking and research methodologies," says Calvert. "I was mentored by a number of individuals, who helped me to envision a future within the academy as a professor, but also beyond the academy as a professional geographer. I never felt like a number in my classes at Brock — I felt like a respected individual."

Emelia Ayipio Asamoah, an international student from Ghana, completed a master's degree in Social Justice and Equity Studies.

"The interdisciplinary nature of the SJES program, and the distinct backgrounds of the faculty, provided me with diverse perspectives on social justice issues such as gender inequality and imbalance international trade policies that are dear to my heart," she says.

Asamoah has returned to northern Ghana and is working as the Country Director of Create Change Organization, a girls and women centred NGO where she oversees social programs in education, clean water projects, and school infrastructure.



Post graduate degrees create opportunities for students globally. Photo: Fab Formisano

Rebecca MacPherson is a bright and gifted young health sciences researcher. After completing her PhD degree, she went to the University of Guelph as a postdoctoral fellow, following a path that she hopes will lead to a position as a university researcher and teacher.

"During my PhD, through graduate courses and excellent mentorship I learned to design, plan, and complete my own research studies," she says. "I learned several biochemical techniques at Brock that I continue to use today and teach students in my new lab at Guelph. I enjoy the university environment and the opportunity to continue to learn and research in my field of interest."

With another group of graduate students about to complete advanced degrees this spring, there will be even more bright minds ready and willing to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural success of communities close to home and far away.

Heather Junke

NEWS

Telemedicine
An Emerging Career with an Exciting Future

Though certainly not without flaws, most Canadians would agree that our health care system is one of the best in the world. It is a vital part of our economy, providing a large number of jobs for the populace. While an aging population and access to medical care is a growing concern, these issues have also led to the creation of innovative technical resources and exciting careers in newly emerging fields of health care.

Eliminating barriers

One such career is in the cutting-edge field of telemedicine. "Telemedicine uses telecommunications and advanced IT technologies to provide clinical healthcare to patients at a distance," explains Peter Gacuk, Program Manager, Engineering Sciences and Technology, Faculty of Continuing and Professional Studies at Sheridan College. "Telemedicine Facilitation is a role that will eliminate distance barriers between patients and doctors." Telemedicine is not to be confused with eHealth and Telehealth, which involves discussing medical concerns over the phone with nurses. Telemedicine creates more of a direct link between patients and doctors thanks to video presentations and telemedicine facilitators.

These facilitators gather health information using directives and charts, cameras, and specialized technology like tele-stethoscopes that actually allow a remote doctor to hear a patient's breathing pattern and heart beat. They then do remote case presentations to an on-screen doctor who performs the diagnoses. "These facilitators will help ease doctor-patient communication and interaction. These people will play a new and vital role in health care."

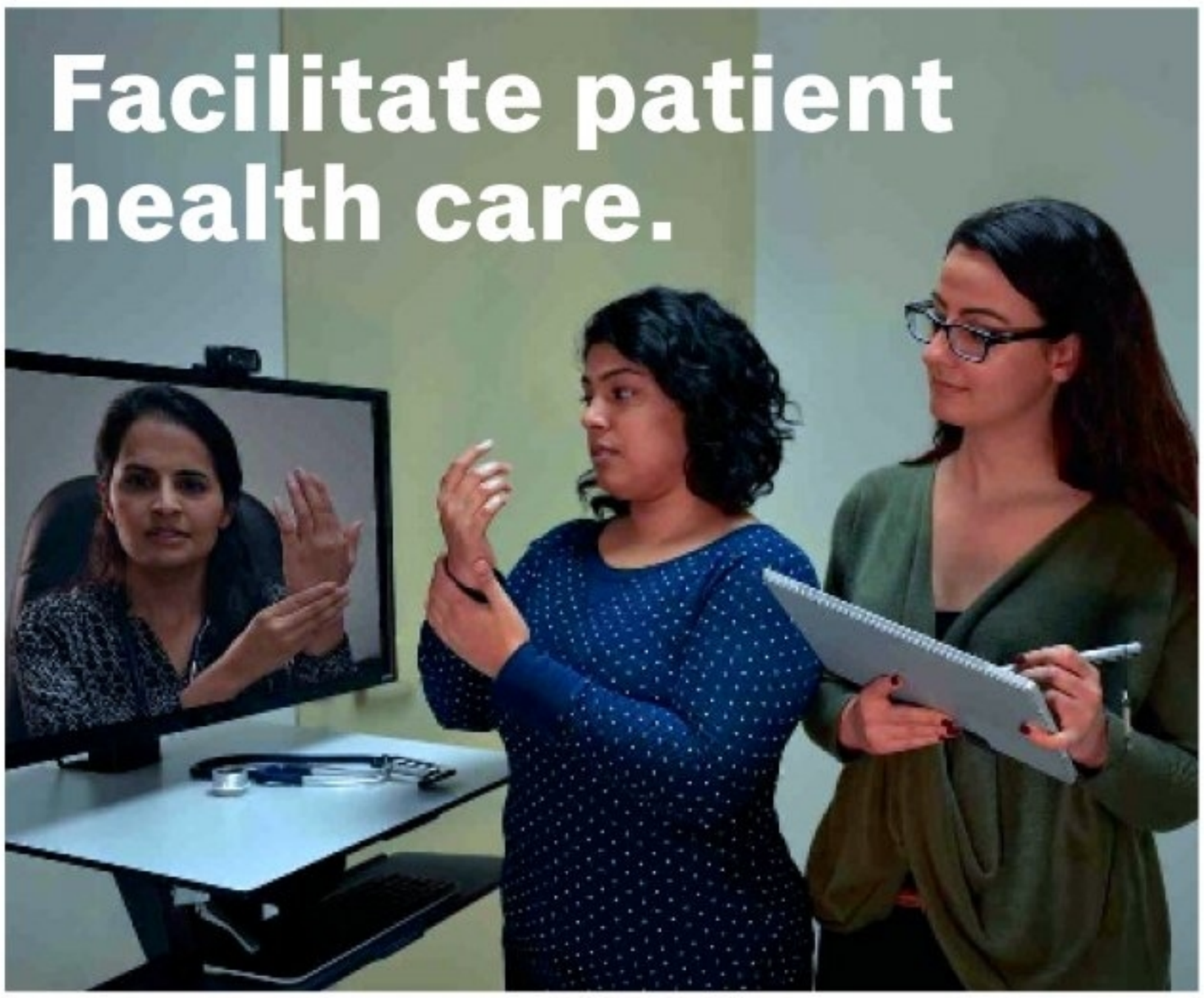
How telemedicine is changing the game

Telemedicine, which Gacuk says is a rapidly growing field, will not only be a boon to remote communities but also to rural and even urban areas where access to a primary care doctor can be difficult. Telemedicine could also play a significant role in shortening the wait time to see a specialist as some consultations could be done via video.

Telemedicine Facilitator programs are currently available as a series of continuing education courses, offering students more flexibility to fit studies into their busy schedules.

"These telemedicine facilitators will be trailblazers and pioneers establishing their role on the health care services team," says Gacuk.

Sandra MacGregor



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EXPERIENCE

Photo: Align Creative Minds

A Career in Hospitality is for Everyone

With the integration of new media, advertising, and finance into the hospitality sector — being involved in the restaurant business isn't just about food anymore.

Having opened 6 restaurants in the last 10 years, as well as being a professor and industry advisor in the Restaurant Operations Certificate program at Centennial College, Toronto's Alex Sengupta lives and breathes hospitality. Many will be familiar with The Lakeview on Dundas Street West, or perhaps coffee shops like The Abbott and The Tenant of Parkdale, all of which pay testament to a career that spans nearly 30 years.

Starting at the age of 13, Sengupta cut his teeth working for a distribution company called Russo Foods, and he's been swept up in the restaurant maelstrom ever since. His on-the-ground experience has obviously been integral to his success, but he'd still argue that there are better routes to take.

> "The best people that I know in the industry have all either taken or taught something in a school, which I think really speaks to its value."

"I think that in terms of learning efficiently — and not having to go through 30 years of being in the industry like myself — you could learn what I know in a shorter amount of time, with the right tutelage and the right environment," says Sengupta. "The best people that I know in the industry have all either taken or taught something in a school, which I think really speaks to its value."

Choose your own adventure

Of course, practical experience in the field can't be understated either, which Sengupta ultimately sees as another form of education. "I believe that every restaurant in itself is a school and that every menu is its own textbook."

This advice means that a slice of both practical and educational experience is advisable for anyone looking to break into the hospitality sector, which according to Sengupta, is now easier than ever.

"I strongly recommend taking a seven week continuing education course. There's night courses that allow for flexibility and they can give you a snapshot of several different aspects of opening and running a restaurant. To couple that, I'd advise getting a part-time job in the industry — whether it's as a host or dishwasher. Those front-line positions are really, really important in learning the mechanics of a successful space."

The flexibility isn't just limited to hours either. According to Sengupta, considering the sheer diversity of courses available today, there's a career change out there for all walks of life.

"You can do anything from finance to maintenance to sales," says Sengupta. "You could concentrate on books, on economics, on inventory, or spending. If you have a background in production, you could do training videos for restaurants. There are really just endless opportunities these days."

Daryl Keating

Celebrity Chef Roger Mooking on What It Takes to Be Successful

Roger Mooking
Celebrity Chef, Recording Artist, @RogerMooking

Mediaplanet How has education affected your career and learning?
Roger Mooking I attacked my time as a student with a very specific and dedicated focus. My educational goal was to soak up as much of the knowledge to help me in my future goals which were extensive and various. I've used everything learned and more.

MP How would you describe the hospitality industry?
RM The hospitality industry is relentless and unforgiving. You have to love it and never forget that it is truly about hospitality. This truth may seem simple but is often forgotten by many. This industry is forever changing. The learning curve and landscape changes daily.

MP How do you stay relevant within this industry?
RM My goal is not staying relevant. My desire is to innovate and contribute to pushing the conversation forward. Trends follow innovation and I want to be on the innovation side of that equation.

MP What career advice would you give to those thinking of pursuing a career in this field?
RM Before you jump into it, I suggest that anyone dreaming of being in this field volunteer their time for a week at a restaurant that they admire. You will know very quickly if you can handle the demands of this career. To be a great chef takes an insatiable appetite for learning, an unwavering curiosity, great intuition, and learned knowledge — as well as an ability to lead a team of people with grace.

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Photo: Bernard Thibodeau

Out of the Frying Pan and into the Classroom: Why Canada's Top Chefs are Returning to School

From line cooks, to sandwich makers, to butchers, the culinary industry encompasses walks of life. But the ones who are taking the extra step into continuing education are finding work in the loftiest of kitchens.

There's only one head chef for Canada's House of Commons, a fact that Certified Master Chef (CMC) Judson Simpson is more than happy to point out. The story of how Simpson rose from filleting fish to acquiring this prestigious position is one peppered with hard work, perseverance, and an unwavering desire to return to school, even when things were going his way.

Embarking on a CMC program is no easy feat for anyone, but for Simpson returning to such a course in his 50s was a tough venture indeed. The reasons for doing so, however, are understandable to anyone with a thirst for knowledge. "I did it because I'm a life-long learner. I'm never satisfied with learning. I constantly crave education. So, that satisfies my need, but it also helps my team," says Simpson.

It's this idea of a team effort, the collective knowledge of the cooking staff as a whole that is paramount to someone like Simpson. He may have one of the most distinctive positions in the country but everyone on his squad still learns and grows together, which is why Simpson feels that everyone has benefited from his continuing education.

"The more you educate yourself, the more you'll be able to share," says Simpson. "In culinary arts more education and background provides an opportunity to share with your co-workers — in turn it will build a strong brigade, which then provides more opportunities for your clients. The trickle-down effect is immense. I've always felt that education is valuable for not only the person pursuing it, but for everybody around them."

> "I've always felt that education is valuable for not only the person pursuing it, but for everybody around them."

Alongside Simpson in this regard is Rudi Fischbacher, Associate Dean for the School of Hospitality, Recreation, and Tourism at Humber College. He too returned to university in his later years, in order to get an MBA rather than a CMC, but all with the goal of furthering his career in the culinary industry.

"It is essential to fully comprehend what an employer is seeking for their workforce," says Fischbacher. "Yes, you can get a job in our industry with little or no experience; however, the career options will be limited for advancement. College education provides the necessary skills, techniques, and hands-on experience to launch into a successful career in a very exciting industry. Education should be seen as a life-long part of your career building blocks."

Daryl Keating

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INSPIRATION

Celebrated Canadian Entrepreneur Sees Education as Gateway to an Enriched Life

Rumeet Billan was feeling unwell when she arrived in Kenya for a work trip in 2009. Her face was swollen and her stomach was far from settled. But, she wouldn't be able to meet all her commitments if she took some downtime — so she persevered. Billan made all her scheduled appointments over the next 10 days, even travelling along bumpy, unpaved roads to get to a few of them. People close to her weren't surprised. Work is not just a job for Billan — it's a passion.

While doing a degree in industrial relations and sociology, the Mississauga native worked part-time at Jobs in Education, an online job board that connects employers and job seekers in the education sphere.

She bought the company in 2004, while still an undergraduate student, and devoted some of the profits to building schools in developing countries in Africa and South America. Seeing the incredible impact these projects had on local communities was a life-changing experience for Billan and it encouraged her to do more. She made that memorable trip to Africa in preparation for the opening of a teachers' college, which she funded. The Toor Centre for Teacher Education opened its doors in a southern Kenya in May 2010.

Education is transformative

While building her business, Billan continued her studies. At the University of Toronto, she did a master's degree then pursued a PhD in higher education and leadership while doing a collaborative degree in the dynamics of global change at the Munk School of Global Affairs.

Convinced of the transformative power of education, Billan now teaches leadership courses at a leading college in Toronto, encouraging students who "want to make a difference."

Billan, who has twice made the Women's Executive Network's Top 100 list of Canada's Most Powerful Women, introduces the students to social entrepreneurship, which she describes as "a marriage between the private and public sectors."

She and other entrepreneurs in this space are able to generate revenue and make an impact, she says. As an example, she points to Embrace, a social enterprise that aims to help millions of premature and low birth-weight babies through a low-cost infant warmer.

"Social entrepreneurship is an inspiring space where the possibilities are truly endless," she says.

Inside and outside the classroom, Billan drives home the point that continuing education is the gateway to a more enriching life. "We're so privileged to have access to education and the ability to engage in experiences that can shape our perspective in a meaningful way," Billan says, adding that she had taken several continuing education courses herself. "Regardless of where you are in life — learning doesn't stop."

Randi Druzin

Top: Rumeet giving a presentation at a TEDxNovaScotia event. Photo: TEDx NovaScotia

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MEDIA PLANET

WORKERS IN DEMAND Find out what careers and skills are required in today's job market. p04

POLICE FOUNDATIONS Learn how classrooms are evolving to meet our communities' needs. p05

EMERGING CAREERS

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Climbing the Ladder of Success

From northern Ontario art student to international design icon, renowned designer and author Bruce Mau speaks about his journey — sharing his formula to achieving career success.

p02

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Tricks of the Trade

HGTV's host of *Disaster DIY* and *Leave it to Bryan*, Bryan Baeumler, discusses his career in the skilled trades and what it takes to enter and succeed in this fulfilling field.

Online Exclusive

Women in Tech

Cisco Canada executive, Trina Alexson, speaks about the opportunities for women in technology.

Online Exclusive

Photos: Bruce Mau by Joshua Lott and Globe and Mail

Designing Success

The Unstoppable Prosperity of Entrepreneur Bruce Mau

The numerous accomplishments of Canadian designer Bruce Mau are something to be marveled at. As an entrepreneur he founded Bruce Mau Design in 1985. As an author he co-wrote the hugely popular *S, M, L, XL* with Rem Koolhaus and even served as creative director for *I.D. Magazine* in the early 90s. Still, these achievements only tell half the story of this innovative designer.

His origins are about as humble as it gets. Hailing from northern Ontario, Mau had no contact with the creative world in his formative years. It wasn't until he got into OCAD that he came across any like-minded individuals. "It was mind-blowing to meet other people like me," Mau recalls. "Other people who want to be artists, who want to be creative. They didn't want to kill animals, they wanted to photograph them."

Though Mau's time at OCAD was one of his first brushes with third-level education, it wasn't to be his last. Once established, Mau was approached by George Brown College to create a new kind of design course. It was here that Institute Without Boundaries was founded, the revolutionary design program that still runs today.

"I really wanted to make a purpose-driven, experience-based, entrepreneurial design education program," Mau explains. "I didn't want it to focus on content. Four years later the content is irrelevant anyway, especially today. The real content is experience. So, we designed an experience program. One where people would spend 12 months in the studio doing a project as a team. It wasn't in a classroom, there were no classes per se. But, when you have a real purpose, on a very public stage, then you will break the box to learn — because you're on the line."

The public stage in that inaugural Institute Without Boundaries program was a real space for Massive Change, the organization that Mau founded on the principles of optimism, beauty, and innovation. Since then the Massive Change philosophy — which even comes with its own 43-point manifesto — has attracted colossal clients such as Coca-Cola and Walt Disney. Currently, the organization's principles can be explored at the *Work on What You Love* exhibit in the Philadelphia Museum of Art until April of this year. After that, Mau intends to continue spreading the Massive Change method to other progressive enterprisers such as himself.

According to Mau, the key to all this success is being oblivious to fear. "It's not like I'm courageous, I just don't know the dangers. Entrepreneurs aren't more courageous than other people, they're just not aware of the risks."

The key to being a successful designer on the other hand is empathy. "You need to be able to experience someone else's pain, understand it, and then translate it into opportunity," says Mau. "In the end the designer is The Lorax, we speak for the trees. We're the advocate for the citizen, for the user."

In order to climb the ladder to success, like Mau did, it seems an equal measure of both is necessary.

Daryl Keating

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INSPIRATION

How the Right Combination of Ingredients Can Lead to a Successful Business

For most, becoming an entrepreneur may seem like an unattainable goal, a pipe dream even. These days, however, starting your own business is well within the reach of many people given the right ingredients.

Emily Wight, founder of Astarté Fresh Yogurt Bar, located in downtown Toronto's underground PATH network, is a prime example. Tired of the slow-moving corporate world, Wight started Astarté to gain more creative freedom and the ability to change things when she saw fit. This choice came with some challenges, but ones that were eventually overcome by the right levels of enthusiasm.

"If you're really passionate about the idea or the business that you're going to start, then it's a lot easier to succeed," Wight explains. "I think it's just about making sure that your dream and passion connects with reality. Couple that with some due diligence and proper planning and it's actually a lot of fun."

Though Wight's eagerness clearly played a huge part in her success, she's also gained a lot of help from Futurpreneur Canada, who have provided funding and guidance along the way. "Having someone you're accountable to, so you can show progress or check in with, is a really important part," says Wight. "I think you can stay in limbo for a long time with a good idea, until you actually execute it. Also, when you're on your own, you only have your opinion, and I think it's really helpful to bounce ideas off of other people."

"I think you can stay in limbo for a long time with a good idea, until you **actually execute it**."

As Astarté turns three, Wight has now firmly established herself as a successful entrepreneur, which allows for a different outlook on her business. "For me it doesn't even feel like a job anymore," says Wight. "I wake up and I'm energized and excited about what I've got going on."

Daryl Keating

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

ONTransfer.ca: Making it Easier for Students to Transfer Courses

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Every year more than 55,000 students transfer among post-secondary institutions in the province of Ontario, choosing to combine their college and university studies to get more out of their education and to better prepare themselves for the job market.

With so many students exploring their options and planning ahead, ONTransfer.ca was created to respond to their needs. The site is free, and helps students learn how to transfer their courses and programs among all of Ontario's 45 publicly assisted colleges and universities.

As the institutions continue to create partnerships and make their information available to students through the site, students can expect a better education, a more seamless transfer experience, and a post-secondary system better equipped to serve their needs in preparing for today's challenges.

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NEWS

Digital Demands

How Classrooms are Innovating

Today's economic landscape is shifting. Every industry is experiencing a digital transformation, and basic tech skills are more in demand than ever. With this change in mind, it is imperative for individuals and businesses to be adaptive and keep up to date with what is trending in business, marketing, design, and tech.

Progressive tech schools are providing individuals and businesses with the opportunity to do just that. These schools are utilizing evening courses and workshops in business, marketing, design, and technology in Toronto and Vancouver especially — taught by industry experts who bring real-world experiences to each class. Courses and workshops are project based — meaning students come out of the experience with something to showcase their newly found skills.

It's important to note that being digitally savvy goes far beyond technical courses like web development. Having digital skills, whether it be SEO and analytics, social media, user experience design, Photoshop, or product management, increases one's workplace contribution and value as an employee. BrainStation's Founder, Jason Field explains, "If you can comprehend and communicate what is going on technically, not only will you add more value to your organization, you will remain relevant as an individual."

So whether it be through a course or workshop, building your digital skills enables one to invest in their personal and professional development.

Trilby Goouch

Making a Difference

Emerging Careers in Health and Community Services

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of Canadians? Check out these emerging careers that will give you knowledge and capabilities to meet 21st century needs.

Government policies related to early learning and care are evolving as we recognize the benefits of investment in children's well-being and success. There is a need for enhanced capabilities for educating children in schools, developing products and programs for early learning and literacy, and working with governments to plan a system for early learning.

Do you have a passion for social justice, public safety, and community well-being? There is growing demand for professionals who can work with each other, the community and its leaders, and at-risk individuals already involved within the criminal justice system. Community services is a rapidly evolving career path that is changing to meet the needs of those it serves.

Contribute to disease prevention and healthy communities through a career in environmental public health, where you will focus on such areas as food and water safety, air quality, and communicable disease monitoring and prevention.

Electronic communication and digital information are changing the nature of health care. If you have technical aptitude and a passion for improving the quality of health care, you can make a difference in positions such as project coordinator, data analyst, or information support technician working in hospitals, community care, family health teams, long-term care organizations, or software companies to introduce and use new communication and monitoring technologies for the best care results. It's your future — make it count!

> "Community services is a **rapidly evolving** career path that is changing to meet the needs of those it serves."

Marlene Raasok

NEWS

The Evolution of Policing and Security in Education

In a world plagued by strife and instability, the demand for public and private security services are growing exponentially. Whether you want to serve your community or country, protect the public, or help people in need — policing and protection is a respected profession with serious responsibilities. If you are looking for more than just a job and want to make a real difference in your community, you could consider a career in police services, investigation, or private security.

Security has developed alongside police services to the point where many skills are interchangeable. Traditional policing has evolved to include immigration, forensics, and investigative skills. Recent reports calling for the modernizing of police services could create a shift towards outsourcing resources which may include those that could be covered by protection, security, and investigation entities. Challenging and rewarding careers can be found within the civil and criminal justice systems such as: correctional services (community and institutional), Canada border service agencies, immigration organizations, and government organizations. Other opportunities also exist in residential, commercial, and industrial security agencies; airport security; the Canadian Forces; hotels, casinos, retail establishments; or, within the future restructure of urban policing.

Small class sizes and state-of-the-art facilities combined with professors who possess industry experience help students graduate with a range of practical, problem-solving, and administrative skills to fill roles across the expanse of criminal justice careers.

New technologies have brought state-of-the-art simulators into the classroom creating life-like situations to help students test and practice their skills before graduation. Students pursuing careers in policing could be taught in driving simulators where instructors challenge them by programming in obstacles as students drive. Conflict resolution simulators portray on-screen characters — uncooperative or in the grip of a mental health crisis to test student negotiation and resolution skills.

For graduates who want to move into a career in criminal justice, educational institutions that offer industry partnerships that provide employment opportunities are a critical next step. Students should also look for opportunities where entry-level positions can move into specialized or niche areas such as analysis, investigations, or risk management.

Prep courses are available to help graduates prepare to write the ministry exams which are mandatory for private investigators and security guards in Ontario.

Sound interesting? Find the program that is right for you!

Susan Typert

GMO foods may be on way

PRODUCE

Retail council says there is no requirement for labelling

Many retailers give shoppers a choice to avoid genetically engineered fruits or vegetables by purchasing organic offerings, says David Wilkes at the Retail Council of Canada. ISTOCK

The organization that represents Canada's major grocery chains says it has full confidence in selling genetically engineered foods that have been approved by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The Canadian Press asked large retail chains such as Loblaw Cos., Metro Inc., and Sobeys Inc., whether they plan to sell genetically modified produce like the Innate potato and Arctic apple and, if so, how they would be labelled. The companies referred questions to the Retail Council of Canada.

"We have confidence in the regulatory process and CFIA to ensure that (genetically engineered foods) are safe for consumption and only products that are safe for consumption are approved," said David Wilkes, senior vice-president of government relations and grocery division for the council.

"There is no requirement for labelling at this point in time, so the government does not indicate that (genetically engineered foods) would be labelled."

The U.S.-based J.R. Simplot Company said Monday that it was notified by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that it could sell its Innate potatoes — which purportedly are less likely to bruise or turn brown when cut.

About a year ago, Health Canada approved a similar non-browning Arctic apple developed by Summerland, B.C.-based Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc. The fruit is not available yet because of the time it takes to grow apple trees.

Innate potatoes, meanwhile, could potentially be planted in Canada and sold as early as later this year. They have been sold in the U.S. since last May under the White Russet brand. While the packaging boasts that the potatoes have "reduced bruising and fewer black spots," there is no disclosure about the product being genetically engineered.

Lucy Sharratt, spokeswoman for the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN), said it rankles some Canadians that special labelling isn't required.

"We're not necessarily speaking of safety issues when we're speaking of labelling. Consumers want labelling for all kinds of different reasons and in a democracy if people want information about what's in the food system, I think it's incumbent on the government to respond," said Sharratt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STARBUCKS

Prepaid Visa card coming

Starbucks says it will introduce a prepaid card by the end of the year that lets people earn points for its rewards program.

The Seattle-based company plans to offer the card through Chase and says people would be able to use it wherever Visa is accepted.

ISTOCK

It's the latest move by Starbucks Corp. to convince people to sign up for its loyalty program by giving them more ways to earn rewards "stars" outside of its cafes. The company also previously announced deals that entail selling its stars to The New York Times, Spotify and Lyft. Those companies would then distribute the stars as incentives to their own customers, Starbucks has said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Weekend, March 24-27, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON A THROWBACK BUDGET

Trudeau is walking on a budget tightrope over a fiscal safety net frayed by a decade of Conservative tax cuts. His budget does little to address a structural revenue shortfall.

For all the talk about a new activist federal era, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's first budget largely picks up where Paul Martin left off — at least when it comes to spending priorities.

Improving the terms of the relationship between Canada and its indigenous people was front and centre on the former Liberal prime minister's radar. At the time of its defeat in 2005, the Martin government was about to start implementing the Kelowna Accord.

Martin had also spent his final years as minister of finance advocating a new fiscal pact between the federal government and Canada's big cities. As prime minister, he had set out to translate his intentions into actions

Both files emerged as major priorities in Tuesday's budget with billions of dollars to be spent on the municipal and indigenous fronts over the next few years.

But this week's budget also demonstrates that turning back the clock a decade is easier said than done. Much water or, in this case, much federal wealth in the shape of tax cuts has flowed under the bridge over the past 10 years.

Martin's spending plans were to be financed out of impressive federal budget surpluses, and he had a revenue base that ensured those would keep on coming.

By comparison, Trudeau is walking on a budget tightrope over a fiscal safety net frayed by a decade of Conservative tax cuts. Tuesday's Liberal budget does little to address a structural revenue shortfall.

On the contrary, instead of erasing Harper's fiscal footprint, the Liberals have chosen to tiptoe around it.

For, of all the signature Conservative policies, a twice-lowered GST seems the most likely to survive the transition to a different government. On the day after the budget, Trudeau categorically maintained that he would not be raising the tax back to its pre-Harper level of seven per cent.

This lack of political fortitude is understandable. The Liberals did not talk about the GST at the time of the election campaign. No party would then go near what strategists saw as the third rail of federal fiscal politics. There was no political cover for Trudeau to talk about raising it before the election and there still is not now that he is in office.

Given a choice between slaying the sacred cow of a lower GST, or breaking with the doctrine of balanced budgets, Trudeau's Liberals determined that the path of least public resistance led to the latter.

But with every GST point worth about $7 billion a year to a cash-starved federal government, good politics stands to make for crippling fiscal policy.

None of the other tax changes of the first Liberal budget really addresses the shrunken capacity of the federal government to raise revenues on par with its policy ambitions.

A string of projected yearly deficits that stretches beyond the current mandate speaks to the existence of a structural gap between those ambitions and the fiscal capacity to fulfil them. More than a low-growth economic cycle is at play.

The last government to leave behind a solid budget surplus was that of Martin. None of the parties that ran in the last election would have produced a balanced budget this year without engaging in a round of spending cuts.

The main consequence of preserving Harper's GST legacy is to essentially leave the federal fiscal ship at the mercy of the vagaries of the world economy. But if the recent decade is any indication, it will be hard to raise that ship out of the red even in moderately good times and/or to keep it on a steady deficit-free course. With so much money committed to recurring tax cuts, it is hard to see how major federal initiatives on the social policy front would be sustainable in the future.

Based on the budget roadmap sketched out this week, one might presume either that any major spending such as more money for health care that did not make the cut of this first budget is unlikely to materialize over the course of the current mandate, or else that the deficit projections put forward by Finance Minister Bill Morneau — as high as they may seem — are actually a floor.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Fertility Awareness Technology

With trust in pharmaceutical companies not what it once was (and condom approval ratings about where they've always been), women either seeking or avoiding pregnancy are choosing in greater numbers to rely not on drugs or polymer prophylactics but on ... their own bodies. Apps like Glow, Clue and Kindara (one of whose founders hails from Toronto) make it easier for women to monitor body temperature, fluids, and other menstrual indicators so that they can take control of their fertility. Outside of activity trackers, they happen to be the most downloaded health apps in the Apple Store. SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN, THE NEW YORK TIMES; IMAGE: KINDARA.COM

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If Ghomeshi skates, a movement will be emboldened

Will Ghomeshi walk? The long stream of bombshells that was Jian Ghomeshi's sexual-assault trial comes down to that question.

And when Justice William B. Horkins delivers his verdict, journalists, lawyers and observers expect the same: Not guilty, on all counts.

Ghomeshi's lawyer, Marie Henein, left the proceedings swimming in reasonable doubt from pothole-ridden testimony. Consent was nowhere to be found, and it didn't matter.

But with apologies to the three complainants, for whom that certainly isn't the best outcome — a not-guilty sweep might be what Canada needs.

It would further galvanize the protests planned in Toronto today, and perhaps spur others. It would infuriate onlookers dismayed at the adversarial, even cruel, dynamics of the courtroom.

It wouldn't surprise sexual-violence advocates who have, for decades, watched an impotent justice system download the fallout of sexual assaults directly onto the victims, as it routinely fails to engender their trust.

But it will give those advocates an extra high-profile bit of ammunition. And they need all the help they can get.

It's been 40 years since rape-shield laws were introduced, but, still, only about 10 per cent of sexual assaults are reported to police, never mind adjudicated in the courts.

In past years, and again since the start of this trial, various reforms have been batted around, including creating a courts for sexual assaults, inspired by those for mental health sufferers. Also: restorative justice; trying sexual assaults as civil cases, in which where the burden of proof is a "balance of probabilities," instead of the "beyond a shadow of a doubt" standard of criminal court; and dedicated lawyers for complainants, to correct the imbalance that results when only the accused gets a lawyer in a he-said-she-said trial where physical evidence and third-party witnesses are in short supply.

Each idea has merit, and yet nothing has been done. This country needs anger.

An acquittal may well be the correct verdict, in legal terms. It could also be the correct sentence in a trial that has been set up, from the beginning, as our big chance to collectively witness systemic failings, and demand change.

Pamela Cross, a lawyer and long-time advocate for sexual assault victims, already believes the conditions are right, regardless of the verdict. "Canadians are talking about sexual assault in a way that really has never happened before," she told me.

But if we need that extra push, not-guilty could do it.

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metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION BOOKS

Henry Cavill is the latest incarnation of Superman in Batman v Superman, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Who will prevail this weekend?

BATMAN V SUPERMAN

From the film to the box office, superheroes fight it out

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Superhero geeks need not fear, this column will contain no spoilers.

In Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, the world's two most famous caped crime fighters throw down, wrestling literally and figuratively to determine what kind of hero is best suited to serve the world's needs.

The story picks up after the action in Man of Steel, which saw Superman (the square-jawed Henry Cavill) protect the planet by destroying half of Metropolis in an epic battle with the evil General Zod (Michael Shannon).

Batman (Ben Affleck), unimpressed with the collateral damage, joins the contingent of folks who see the Last Son of Krypton not as a champion but an alien threat. A battle ensues.

Who will win? Other than Kryptonite, Superman has no known weaknesses, so this would seem like a fairly one-sided fight, but Batman has skills as well, so who knows?

To get to the bottom of the matter I held a highly unscientific Facebook Batman v Superman poll to determine a winner. It drew mixed results.

"Brains over brawn," wrote one FB friend, "Batman for the win!"

"Superman could basically fly down at super speed striking Batman before he could even sense he was coming and turn the Bat into vapour," wrote a Superman fan.

Another wasn't so sure. "Both seem to wear their underwear over their pants... it is a tough call." Whatever the outcome, expect a wild showdown. But that's on screen. It's make-believe. What about Reel Life v Real Life?

The Caped Crusader and Supes have been duking it out for decades at the box office but Batman, specifically the Christian Bale era, comes out on top. The Dark Knight Rises and The Dark Knight KO the competition, with the 1978 Superman, the first Tim Burton Batman and the recent Man of Steel rounding out the top five.

Batman also brings in the lion's share of the marketing money. According to comicbookmovie.com Batman sells almost two-to-one to Superman products.

That means more parents dress their kids as Batman than Superman at Halloween and that includes Ben Affleck and Christian Bale who met at a costume store last year as they shopped for Batman outfits for their kids.

What about prestige? Again Batman is victorious, with three Academy Award winners — Affleck, Bale and George Clooney — playing the Bat at one time or another.

As for the Metropolis Marvel, Oscar winners Robert Redford and Clint Eastwood both turned down the role as did best actor nominee James Caan who said, "There's no way I'm wearing that silly suit."

Oscar winner Nic Cage wore the suit but his Superman story never made it before the cameras.

So far my Reel Life v Real Life look at Batman v Superman favours the Dark Knight, but Clark Kent's alter ego is still a formidable foe.

Keep in mind, without Superman there may never have been a Batman.

Predating the Caped Crusader, the Man of Steel is a pioneer whose popularity helped create the superhero genre. Since then he's been ubiquitous, inspiring an American Sign Language symbol, movie serials, TV shows, comic strips, pop songs — (Wish I Could Fly Like) Superman by The Kinks among many others — and even a Broadway musical called It's a Bird...It's a Plane... It's Superman.

Finally, as one of my Facebook friends pointed out, Superman has at least one insurmountable advantage over Batman: "If Superman loses the fight he can fly back in time to fight again."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 ★★
Eye in the Sky ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

BEN AFFLECK

Putting rumours to rest

While doing press for Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, Ben Affleck has found himself addressing a lot of misconceptions. One he's more than happy to clear up?

The suggestion that he was originally offered the gig of directing 2013's Man of Steel before Zack Snyder.

"It's not true that I turned down Man of Steel," Affleck insists. "I learned a lot from Zack on this movie. One of the really valuable things about it for me, aside from the personal experience of playing the part, was watching a guy who really understands how to make films on this level, with cutting-edge technology, combining in-camera stuff with visual effects and stunts and all the tools at a director's disposal, and seeing how Zack meticulously constructed them using hand-drawn storyboards, frame by frame and evolving into the movie that you saw, in a fairly consistent vision."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

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Dream or nightmare for movie lovers?

ANALYSIS

Two movie writers debate an in-home movie service

Is it the dumbest idea since Smell-O-Vision or a boon for movie lovers? The Screening Room is a startup backed by Napster co-founder Sean Parker and music executive Prem Akkaraju that would bring first-run films directly into people's homes.

The service has the support of some major filmmakers, but its existence depends on the co-operation of studios and exhibitors, which seems unlikely.

Still, our movie writers weighed the pros and cons.

Peter Howell, Torstar Movie Writer

Piracy will go through the roof: Pirates already cost the movie industry billions of dollars each year in lost revenue. And that's with surveillance systems that make taping films off the screen relatively difficult in public places. Imagine how much more money will be lost when pirates can make near-perfect copies of first-run movies in the privacy of their own home. It's because of this that you'd be unlikely to see a Star Wars or Avengers movie screened via this service, despite the enthusiasm expressed by a few misguided blockbuster directors.

It will diminish the movie-going experience: Since the creation of movies more than a century ago, the experience of seeing one has always been about more than just viewing images on a screen.

It's fine to watch a film on a TV or laptop, but it's not the optimal way to do it. Watching a film outside of a conventional theatre also means missing out on the audience sharing.

It will kill small theatres and many jobs: It's no secret that the ticket price alone doesn't pay for a night out at the movies. The multiplexes could probably make a go of it, since they run the Star Wars and Transformers movies that will always pull in fans who want the ultimate viewing experience, along with the snacks. But everything short of a blockbuster could play well on a home screen, robbing smaller theatres and art houses of patrons and purchases they need.

It doesn't make any economic sense: Parker's talking about charging people $150 for a stand-alone box for their TVs. Then there's the $50 per-use fee — $65 Canadian, at current exchange rates. To make that work, you'd have to have at least four people at a time gather to watch a film.

Linda Barnard, Torstar Movie Writer

Serving the needs of movie lovers: Better theatre experiences for the rest of us: I can always tell when a movie sags and starts to lose its audience: the phones come out. So if Screening Room means selfish morons who can't resist checking Instagram feeds in the middle of a film can do that at home — while yakking to their seatmate, noisily rooting around in buckets of popcorn and tearing open loud candy packages, all while kicking the chair in front of them — it can only be a good thing.

The Screening Room would eliminate annoyances at the theatre, writes Linda Barnard. CONTRIBUTED

It's the future: Major filmmakers are finding new routes to get their work in front of audiences, even if traditional types in Hollywood react with Oscar-nomination snubs, as with Cary Fukunaga's powerful Beasts of No Nation, which screened at Venice and TIFF before its Netflix worldwide release. Spike Lee's Chi-Raq, produced by Amazon Studios, had a brief theatrical run in December in the U.S. before quickly landing on Amazon Prime. It opened in Toronto March 18 and was available on iTunes and VOD platforms the same day. Consumers are demanding different kinds of access and Screening Room would give them a choice.

A matter of choice: A joint 2015 Telefilm Canada-Show Canada-ERm Research study showed two-thirds of the Canadian population age 13 and up goes to the movies, seeing an average of five movies a year. Why wouldn't the movie industry want to get its hands on the wallets of the rest of the population and more often? Theatre owners and movie distributors have always balked at shortened windows for films making the transition from big screens to personal viewing but we love to watch movies and should have a choice.

Hollywood will have to sink piracy: Piracy costs the movie industry dearly each year in lost revenue. Wouldn't putting a first-run flick into the hands of home users be irresistible to cheats and scofflaws? Not if enough safeguards are put in place to prevent content theft sites from getting their mitts on the movies. With those who potentially have much to lose, including filmmakers Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson and J.J. Abrams backing Screening Room, there must be some faith in the potential to dodge piracy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Amy Adams is no damsel in distress

INTERVIEW

Actress returns as Lois Lane and dishes on her super role

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Amy Adams steps back into the iconic role of Lois Lane for Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice three years after her first outing, Man of Steel.

Just don't call her a damsel in distress. While her character may still need rescuing from time to time, the fact that it's Superman doing the rescuing should count for something, right?

This movie had quite a lengthy production.
I don't know how long, I was involved for about six months of it, on and off. Coming and going, so yeah. But they prepped for a really long time. That's the thing that nobody sees, all the prep that goes into it. They're prepping Justice League right now, so I'm sure Zack's exhausted.

In taking on an icon like Lois Lane, what do you think are the more intrinsic parts about the character that you have to get across?
I think she's kind of a little ball-busting. I'd like to put it nicer, but I don't know how to put it nicer. She's sassy! (laughs) But yeah, she kind of has a lot of moxie, so you've got to get that across. You know, you have to get that she kind of goes into situations that get her in a lot of trouble, that require a certain amount of rescuing. I shy away from "damsel in distress," though. You have to kind of build that into the character as a sort of energy that you feel like she's a woman who fought her way to where she is and really digs in.

The fact that she gets to be rescued by Superman rather than she just needing to be rescued by a normal person ...
She understands going into these situations, there's a very real possibility that dangerous things can and will happen to her. So I don't think she goes in with the idea that someone will save her — well, maybe she does now that she's got an in. "Oh, I wouldn't mess with me, it doesn't end well, I've seen it. I've seen what happens." He can get here really fast. Super fast.

It feels like Superman hasn't done a very good job explaining himself to the human race in general, but he seems to communicate well with Lois.
I think she's in a relationship with Clark, and the rest of the world is in a relationship with Superman, so I know him as a human being, his human side.

I know he's an alien, but I know him as a man — Clark the man. It's nice to get to play to with Clark because Lois doesn't always get to do that in the history of Lois. She's usually not in a relationship with Clark, she's in a relationship with Superman.

Amy Adams comes out to play Lois Lane a second time in Batman v Superman. CONTRIBUTED

Do you have an idea of where that can go?
She accepts that they're same person.

Superman is the title that's been given to him by the world, but she calls him Clark. She's never like, "Superman!" She calls after him, it's always Clark. He's just Clark to her.

That bathtub scene had to be either a really fun day at work or a really aggravating day at work.
It's not aggravating, it's not fun. It's just another day at the office in my flesh-colored underwear. (laughs)

Hopefully they keep the water warm.
They keep the water warm. They treat me with a ton of respect. It is tricky, for my own modesty and because they can't use the take if you see anything, so it's a very fine balance. They did a good job. There were some bath salts and stuff. I think it's actually milk powder. My skin ended up very soft. There have been worse days.

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Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Drones are certainly one of the technological marvels of the modern age — albeit a curiosity that is fraught with controversy.

In fact, military drones have specifically been scrutinized for the perception that the remote-controlled flying gadgets are largely responsible for reckless deaths in war zones. For former lawyer-turned-filmmaker Gavin Hood, it was an issue absolutely ripe for the cinema.

"For me, the script was an invitation to a highly-charged debate," explained Hood while promoting his new drama Eye in the Sky. "It presents multiple points-of-view and moral, ethical and legal arguments around the question of drone warfare and leaves the audience in the position of a juror in a jury trial."

The taut thriller focuses in particular on a mission led by an authoritative military colonel (played by Helen Mirren) set on taking out via drone the terrorist she's tracked for years. However, when a nine-year old Kenyan innocent gets within range, the showdown to strike escalates into a fiery moral incident.

"When I was reading the script, I just kept seeing Helen Mirren in my head," said Hood of the mission leader that was originally written as a male character. "I kept thinking which actor could play this role and it had nothing to do with gender. (A film like this) needs actors who can give you what she does so well — which is moments of humor, moments of nuance, moments of manipulation — that enrich every scene."

Hood adds modifying the military role for Mirren also had little to do with the recent raucous raised by a recent USC study spotlighting Hollywood's major diversity problem. Instead, his choice simply reflected a humble attempt to craft an authentic story.

Helen Mirren stars as a colonel on a mission in highly charged drama Eye in the Sky. HANDOUT

"The fact is that more and more women are joining the military," stated the 52-year-old director behind hits like X-Men Origins: Wolverine and 2006's Foreign Language Oscar-winner Tsotsi. "There are women in (military intelligence officer) roles and there are more and more women in the role of drone sensor operators, drone pilots and behind the scenes, which is why there are so many women in the film. That's not us being politically correct, that's just a reality of what's happening."

FILM NOTES

Time in army fuels plot

Gavin Hood was drafted into the army at 17 — something that informed his filmmaking career.

"As a young person starting out making films you don't necessarily know why you're drawn to certain things," said Hood. "But now that I'm over 50, I do seem to still be working out a great deal of questions (from) those two years in the military."

Director Gavin Hood HANDOUT

In memoriam...

Eye in the Sky will also mark one of respected thespian Alan Rickman's very last films — having passed away in January.

"This was a man of wonderful intelligence, genuine kindness, great wit and I think we were very lucky to have him in the film," said Hood.

"What he's able to do with just the raise of any eyebrow or the slightest twist on a line is enrich a scene."

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Greek Wedding star calls out Hollywood

NIA VARDALOS

On battling sexism in Tinseltown and onscreen

It wasn't long after My Big Fat Greek Wedding exploded at the box office that Hollywood began pestering its star Nia Vardalos for a sequel.

The Winnipeg-bred breakout declined, turning instead to other comedic followups including Connie and Carla, I Hate Valentine's Day and My Life in Ruins.

But none had the impact of her surprising family-friendly smash, which centred on an unassuming Greek woman who falls in love with a non-Greek suitor, played by John Corbett.

Vardalos adds she was also focused on other matters, including efforts to become a mother that resulted in the adoption of a little girl.

Now older, wiser and inspired by her own new family adventures, Vardalos reprises her role as Toula Portokalos in My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2.

Vardalos chatted with The Canadian Press by phone from New York.

Tell me about some projects over the years that haven't been able to take root.

I definitely lost control and then gained it and lost it. It is a process and getting a film made is difficult, period. Hollywood is still the most archaic place. It is the one place where a review can talk about a woman's looks and you can not get a job simply because you're female. It's outdated and we have to push through.

Can you describe some of these scripts you've been asked to rework?

It will say about the female: "Late 20s. Beautiful but doesn't know it. Kittenish, sexy." (And then) it'll say: "Guy, 40s. A sense of being that far exceeds his years." You know, there's no reference to being handsome ... It'll never say: "Chiselled jaw line, pecs to die for." Can you imagine reading that in a screenplay? It wouldn't be written and people would laugh out loud. But it's certainly written about the women. And we just call them on it, we just laugh.

We've had symposiums at the Writers Guild with men and women there talking about how when ... we have to incite peril for a woman during sweeps' week the writers will pitch, 'OK, so let's get her raped.' And it's rough. It's really, really bad. We're creating a rape culture. And we're trying to pull back from it and that's what these meetings do where we have to call each other on what we're doing wrong. And try to get things out there.

It's really, really hard to get a family comedy made, especially a PG-13 one.... If this movie doesn't do well there will be another 15 years where we wait for another one. And that's a bummer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nia Vardalos and John Corbett are reunited in My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2. HANDOUT

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Finally... when Griffin met Sabine

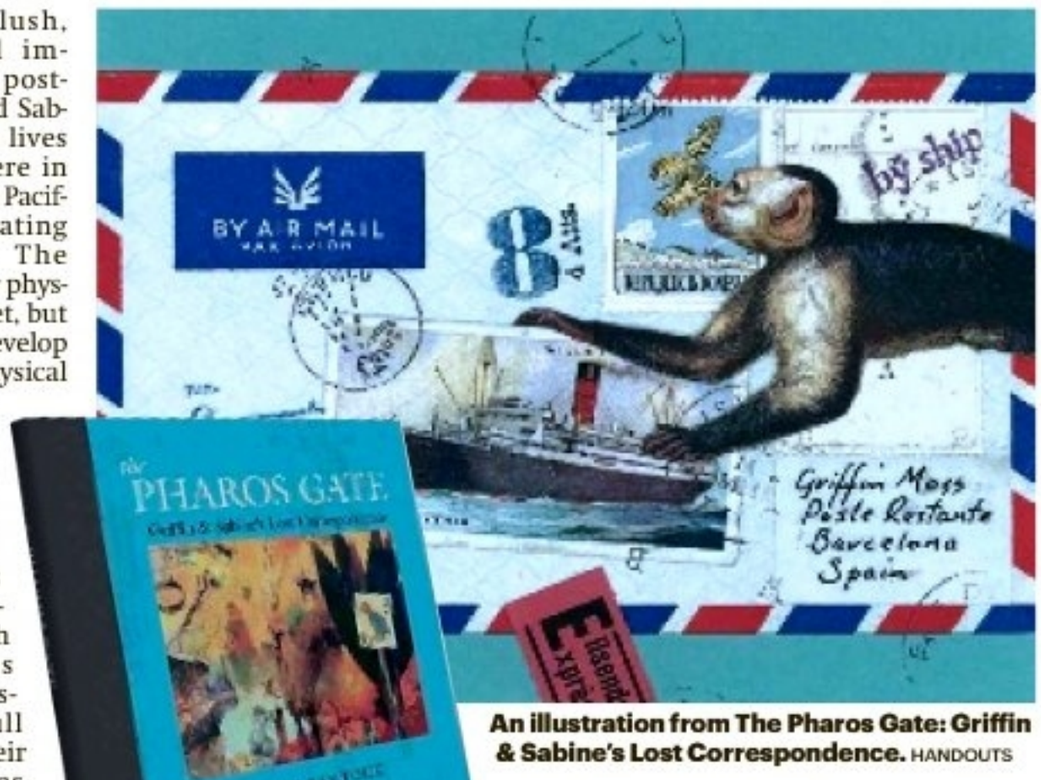
THE PHAROS GATE

Nick Bantock's long-distance lovers come face to face at last

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

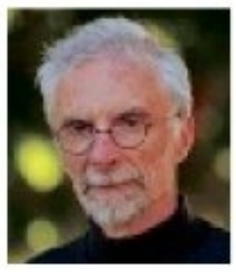
Twenty-five years ago, before Nick Bantock's debut novel Griffin & Sabine became a multi-million bestseller and cultural phenomena, he was living on $12,000 a year working as an artist. Although he had illustrated covers for books, he never thought about writing them. But something about his "adult picture book" resonated with readers, and the next thing the British artist knew, he was catapulted into the international literary spotlight with appearances on breakfast shows and readings to packed rooms, an experience he now calls both exhilarating and bizarre.

Told through a trilogy of books, the story follows a London artist named Griffin, who creates lush, collaged images for postcards, and Sabine, who lives somewhere in the South Pacific illustrating stamps. The two never physically meet, but instead develop a metaphysical connection through their handwritten postcards and letters, which readers can physically pull out of their envelopes. Bantock, who now lives in Victoria, B.C., says the concept originally "came from seeing someone else in the post office getting good mail, and me getting the usual crap."



An illustration from The Pharos Gate: Griffin & Sabine's Lost Correspondence. HANDOUTS

At the end of the third novel in 1993, Bantockians, as his hardcore fans called themselves, despaired over the fate of the lovers. Would they ever set eyes on each other? More than two decades later, curiosity will now be satisfied with the release of The Pharos Gate: Griffin and Sabine's Lost Correspondence, as the two prepare to finally meet in person, despite looming dangers and distances. Although Bantock planted visual clues throughout all the books, the setting and era is intentionally ambiguous. Even if Bantock and his readers have aged, it's as if time stood still for Griffin and Sabine.



> **I found they articulate my journey as a human being better than anything else.**
> Griffin & Sabine author Nick Bantock

"That's part of the fun," he says. "You bury stuff in there so that those who want to dig can dig, but if you don't poke around, it doesn't matter. You can take it at face value or take the book as having a number of layers."

For Bantock, who is experiencing a "strange déjà vu" as he prepares to tour The Pharos Gate, the books represent more than just romance. He sees the two characters, and the marriage of text and image, as his personal hero's journey, representing "an internal dialogue between my logical and intuitive self. I found they articulate my journey as a human being better than anything else."

Of course the world has changed a lot in the 25 years since Griffin and Sabine first arrived, most obviously with social media and email replacing good old-fashioned letter writing. Bantock ultimately hopes the unique format and message behind The Pharos Gate will inspire a new generation of technology-obsessed readers to express themselves in more meaningful ways.

"I don't mean getting rid of the computer or playing luddite games," he says, "but if it can offer an alternative way of self-expression that encourages people to slow down at certain times of the day or the week, and articulate their ideas and feelings in a different way, then as far as I am concerned, the book will have succeeded."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Suzuki on turning 80 and 'alarmism'

ENVIRONMENT

Broadcaster reflects on battles lost, won, repeated

David Suzuki says he really isn't one for birthdays, but he's making an exception for his 80th.

The life of the noted scientist, activist and broadcaster will be celebrated with a special broadcast of CBC's The Nature of Things on Thursday.

Reached by phone in Vancouver, Suzuki traces his cavalier attitude about birthdays to his boyhood, when his family was among the thousands of Japanese Canadians forcibly moved to internment camps following attacks on Pearl Harbor.

"I realized that it all was in the roots of the Second World War when we were shipped out of Vancouver into camps and we had nothing with us," Suzuki says. "I kind of grew up without thinking a great deal about birthdays."

But the 80th is special, he concedes."It's really funny, 50 was no big deal, (same with) 60, 70. But 80, you've got to realize, 'My God, you really are old.' There's no getting away from it!"

Suzuki chatted with The Canadian Press about celebrating milestones, recognizing failures and maintaining hope for the future.

I get the sense that family is paramount for you. You can't help but wonder what the world will be like when your grandchildren are 80.
Well, yeah, I've just come back yesterday from two weeks in Australia and we snorkelled on the Great Barrier Reef, which I always do when I go to Australia, and it was devastating this time. I first dove on the reef in 1989 and what I see now is a shadow of what it once was. It's devastating. You talk about looking to the future, it's very, very depressing.

People often refer to you as alarmist.
You're damn right. I don't know why this is supposed to be a bad word but, yes, I am an alarmist. I am raising the alarm and saying — especially now as an elder — I remember what the world was like when I was a boy. And yes it's true, our lives are immeasurably easier to live … and we can be very impressed with those things but at the same time, my grandchildren can't go fishing where I did when I was a boy, and the Barrier Reef is a mess and much of the forest of British Columbia has been cut down.

Suzuki says he isn't one for birthdays, but he'll make an exception for his 80th. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS/FILE

You've said the environmental movement has failed.
A lot of the victories that we thought we celebrated, certainly I did — stopping dams and stopping drilling and stopping supertankers — well, 30, 35 years later, the same problems have returned. We stopped Site C, the dam on the Peace River 35 years ago, we stopped it. But now (B.C. Premier) Christy (Clark) is going ahead and building it … And we stopped supertankers that were going to come down the B.C. coast from Alaska but now we're proposing to let supertankers start right off on the B.C. coast with things like pipelines. So what the hell has happened?

It sounds like the target has to shift, then.
We have to look at the world in a different way. And this is the real crisis, I think is that we somehow feel that we no longer live as part of nature. Because 85 per cent of Canadians live in big cities. And in a big city you think, "Well, my most important thing is my job, I need a job to earn money to buy my food and live in a house and all that." And so the economy becomes our highest priority and we forget that if you don't breath air for three minutes you're dead.

Now we have a new prime minister.
We have a new prime minister but he's got 10 years of no action to catch up on, more than 10 years because the previous government talked but didn't do much.

What's been your biggest achievement?
My proudest achievement is my children who I feel are very decent Canadians and they've worked hard all their lives and they're all environmentalists. I'm very, very proud of my children.

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Justin Bieber cancels meet-and-greets at concerts. GETTY IMAGES

No more meet-and-greets for Beliebers

Justin Bieber is putting up barriers.

The pop star from Stratford, Ont., has announced he's cancelling his meet-and-greets at concerts.

In a posting on his Facebook page, the 22-year-old says he loves meeting fans.

But he adds that such encounters leave him "filled with so much of other people's spiritual energy" that he ends up "so drained and unhappy."

According to TMZ, Bieber is also making the change due to security issues.

The celebrity news website says "an obsessed and potentially dangerous fan" got within three metres of him during a meet and greet at his concert on Monday night. TMZ says the fan was on the "watch list" of Bieber's security, which removed the fan from the area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Brave in an LGBTQ-phobic world

THE SHOW: Gaycation, Season 1, Episode 2 (VICE)
THE MOMENT: The admission

Ellen Page and Ian Daniel take on LGBTQ hatred around the globe in Gaycation. HANDOUT

Co-hosts Ellen Page and Ian Daniel are travelling the world, exploring how different cultures react to LGBTQ people. In Rio de Janeiro, they talk to an ex-cop, known only as El Grande, who hates gay people and has killed several.

"If I saw gay people I'd run them over," says El Grande, whose face and voice are disguised. "I think every pigsty must be cleaned out."

Page covers her mouth. "I want to say that I'm gay," she whispers to someone off-camera. "Do you think it's safe?"

She turns back to El Grande. "We're gay," she says. "Do you think it would be better for the world for us to be dead?"

After watching three episodes, I was briefly concerned that they weren't differentiated enough. People have different reasons for their homophobia — in Tokyo, it's about family pride; in Rio, it's about Catholicism — but the conversations have a similar arc. And as the hosts point out, a handful of people can't speak for a whole culture.

But then I realized the similarity was the point. Like good therapists, Page and Daniel are willing to say the same things, and hear the same things, over and over, in the hope that somewhere, something will click. Someone will see them differently, and a change will start to be made.

They certainly have the temperaments of therapists: Though often shaken (the statistics on violence against LGBTQ people are staggering), they remain calm. And brave. They keep the conversation going, hoping to be heard.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Anne Hathaway downsizes to $2.55 million NYC penthouse

Shared condo space is a selling point

YC Condos boasts the largest condo pool in the Western Hemisphere. It's 60 feet wide and features a three-sided sweeping view of the city to the south. COURTESY CANDEREL RESIDENTIAL

CONDO TRENDS

Developers always looking to up their amenity game

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

With today's smaller condo footprints, every square inch counts. That's why savvy condo owners know that common amenities are an extension of their living rooms, and are more discerning about the frills they want, demanding the latest trends in condo amenities.

Developers are always dreaming up new ways to attract buyers and differentiate their offerings from the competition.

A big selling point is condo amenities, and when people go condo shopping, they'll have a checklist of must-have facilities.

Not all amenities are alike. Standard fare is a gym, a theatre room and common dining/party area with catering kitchen.

Above and beyond that, a number of GTA developments have gone full-tilt in delivering some of the latest trendy offerings. Think hot yoga, skating rinks, rock-climbing walls and computer-gaming arcades, to name a few.

POPULAR CONDO AMENITIES (AND SOME MORE UNIQUE ONES)

Yoga
No condo fitness facility would be complete without some sort of Yoga studio. East United condos has a great yoga studio flooded with natural light from full floor-to-ceiling windows. Then there's Hot Yoga — an increasingly popular condo amenity. With studios heated to over 30 degrees, it's a really great way to detoxify. Parade condos at Concord CityPlace offers hot yoga studios.

Adaptive laser playing surfaces
This is new. Ghods Builders at their 5959 Yonge Street condos will have a fitness area that features a high-tech adaptive playing surface with adjustable lines — coloured LED lights mark out the floor and walls, with programmable presets for dozens of different sports.

Rock climbing
Some condos offer climbing walls, both indoor and out. Located at the foot of Spadina Avenue, Neo condos has some top-notch amenities, including a professional outdoor climbing wall.

Indoor basketball courts
The Daniels Corporation has found indoor bball courts to be very popular. They feature them in their athletic facilities at the downtown Cinema Tower and Limelight Condominiums in Mississauga.

Gigantic rooftop terraces
Outdoor space is really important, so terraces rule in urban towers. Easton's Dundas Square Gardens, with five outdoor terraces — 16,000 square feet in total — is one of the largest rooftop spaces in Toronto.

Radical swimming pools
There's a remarkable pool at Bazis' uptown E Condos, with its clear-walled tank exposing a view of the city from underneath the water. Kind of like Ripley's Aquarium, only 200 feet in the air!

Swimming pools are always a big attraction for condo buyers and the more opulent the better.

YC condos by Canderel boasts one of the tallest infinity pools in the Western Hemisphere. Aqua 66, the $5-million pool is located on the 66th floor of the tower. It's 60 feet wide and features a three-sided sweeping view of the city to the south.

Several new developments in the GTA are catering to the baby boomer generation with amenity-rich, 55-plus communities. Residences like the new Trinity Ravine Towers offer a whole campus of community-based activities that encourage residents to maintain an active lifestyle.

Here you will find all manner of amenities not offered in conventional condos, like a craft room and workshop, games room, wellness centre, a library and a computer lab. This style of community offers everything from tai-chi and cooking classes, as well as onsite restaurants, cafes and tea rooms.

Tridel has long realized the value of offering plentiful amenities in their condo buildings. Their latest, Parfait at Atria, has a lot to offer that will keep residents busy year-round, with a fireplace lounge, a party room with outdoor terrace, a theatre room, billiards lounge and private dining room. There's also a fitness centre with a yoga studio and exercise pool, oh my.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

1 OPEN HOUSE

East end: A three-storey, four-bedroom townhouse will be shown this weekend in Toronto's east end. Check it out at 26 Yates Ave., March 26 and 27 from 2 to 4 p.m.
CONTACT: JAMES BENSON, KELLER WILLIAMS REFERRED REALTY, BROKERAGE. 416-445-8855
TEXT BY DUNCAN MCALLISTER

2 NOW REGISTERING

The Village: Eighty One Wellesley, a new 28-storey condo residence by Aragon in the bustling Church and Wellesley Village is now open for registration. Be the first to get on the list.
CONTACT: ARAGON.CA

3 OPEN HOUSE

Forest Hill South: This weekend, check out this stately four-plus-one bedroom home in the Forest Hill South neighbourhood. Head over to 40 Tarlton Rd., on March 26 and 27 from 2 to 4 p.m.
CONTACT: DAVID BATORI, RE/MAX HALLMARK BATORI GROUP INC., BROKERAGE, 416-484-9444

In the heart of Burlington

Project overview

Appleby Gardens is a new condominium residence in the heart of Burlington that offers seven floors of modern living and comfort. The suite layouts include state-of-the-art fixtures, including six full-sized appliances and upgraded features.

Housing amenities

The condo offers a curated mix of amenities that include a fitness centre, a party room, a concierge lobby, and underground parking. Suite features include a den and balconies in selected units.

Location and transit

Centrally located near the Millcroft Shopping Centre, the building is situated in close proximity to major highways, the QEW and the 407 on Appleby Line. Burlington Transit bus routes are nearby and the Appleby GO rail station is a five-minute drive away.

CONTRIBUTED

In the neighbourhood

The area boasts fine restaurants, grocery stores, athletic facilities, shops, and golf courses. Residents are close to the Burlington lakefront, Bronte Provincial Park and several nature trails along the escarpment.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Appleby Gardens Burlington
Builder: LJM Developments
Location: 5001 Corporate Dr., in Burlington
Building: Seven-storey midrise with 71 suites
Sizes: From 600 to 1,312 square feet
Pricing: From $314,550 to $549,000
Suites: One bed, one bed plus den, two bed, two-storey lofts and penthouse
Occupancy: July 2016
Sales centre: 1860 Appleby Line, Unit 28, Burlington
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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5	2	1	7	9	6	4	8	3
8	1	7	4	2	5	3	9	6
2	9	6	1	3	7	8	5	4
3	5	4	6	8	9	1	2	7
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Paper napkins can make for eggcellent design.

DIY Easter-egg decor as easy as decoupage

CRAFTING

These add springtime ambience to any room

Handcrafted egg decorations are a fun Easter tradition. Decoupaging eggs using paper napkin cut-outs is an easy way to dress them up without messy dyes. Skip the time consuming egg-blowing ritual and opt for faux eggs that you can use to decorate your table or add to gift baskets throughout the season.

Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies:

- Decorative paper napkins with a white background
- Eggs (we used plastic ones from a dollar store)
- Paintbrush
- Decoupage glue (we used Modge Podge in matte)
- Scissors

Step 2: Cut out shapes from paper napkins: Using scissors, loosely cut around the areas of the napkin you wish to use to decorate your eggs.

The edges will blend into the egg surface. Napkins are made up of multiple layers. Peel away the printed top layer so that you end up with one thin piece.

Thinner pieces of paper are easier to apply to the egg.

Step 3: Start decoupaging: Using the paintbrush, apply the glue to the area of the egg you wish to decorate, and then carefully press the cut paper shape to the egg.

Smooth out the paper shape from the centre outwards using your fingertips.

To save time, you can skip the egg blowing and get plastic eggs. DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Let dry for a few minutes.

Step 4: Apply a second coat of glue. Using the paintbrush, apply a second coat of glue over the decorated area. This helps seal the paper to the egg. The glue will be dry in about one hour, but plan on giving the more time to dry completely.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RETAIL

Or, just buy it

We've rounded up a basket full of egg decorations:

1 Uniquely Asian
These eggs are decorated using traditional Japanese Washi paper, wrapped around a delicate hand-blown eggshell. $35.47 plus $13.64 shipping.

2 CMC Creations
Tiny paper blue birds adorn this delicate hand-blown egg from this Etsy shop that specializes in Japanese paper creations. $13.64 plus $15.82 shipping.

3 Wayfair Canada
Decorative eggs ready to hang or use as a table accent. 12 piece floral egg set. $21.99 plus $8.99 shipping.

4 Crate and Barrel
A cheerful, hand-painted wooden Easter egg with a modern Chevron pattern. $5.95 plus $26.65 shipping.

With 15 per cent of the Canadian population having some level of disability, new buildings must be designed with their needs in mind. ISTOCK

Designing barrier-free buildings

BILD

Accessibility paramount for new builds

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

More and more residential and commercial buildings in the GTA are being designed to be accessible and barrier-free.

When constructing any building in Ontario, builders must comply with the Ontario Building Code and in 2015 the Code was updated to include more accessibility requirements for new office, industrial and multi-residential buildings. According to Statistics Canada, about 15 per cent of the population has some form of disability. Now, the building code requires that 15 per cent of homes within a new multi-unit residential building have a barrier-free path. Doors and hallways have to be wider to allow room for a wheelchair and ramp dimensions have been updated to make new buildings easier to access. For people who have low vision, there are new requirements for tactile walking surfaces that indicate the top of stairs and platform edges.

Also required under the updated Code is the installation of visual fire and smoke alarms. As well, there has to be barrier-free access in between storeys in most buildings, and building entrances, barrier-free washrooms and common areas like party and movie rooms in condominiums need to have power door mechanisms.

It takes an innovative design approach to incorporate accessible aspects into new residential buildings. Designing accessible units, wider hallways and other elements can be challenging especially in mid-rise buildings where space is already limited.

Rockport Group has a multi-faceted revitalization project starting construction this summer at Weston Road and Lawrence Avenue called The Weston Hub and 22 John Street. It's a collaboration with the City of Toronto, Artscape Toronto Inc. and Woodbourne Capital Management Inc. that will rehabilitate a vacant building into live/work spaces, a community cultural hub and add a 30-storey market rental building to the site next door. Both buildings will be accessible with ample corridors and wider suite entryways and other aspects.

In The Diamond on Yonge in North York, Diamante Urban Corp's building, 10 per cent of each type of unit is barrier free. This allows homebuyers to choose their suite knowing it will have a barrier-free path throughout and at least one washroom will have space for a wheelchair to fully turnaround.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

LEGAL MATTERS

If you don't like the terms, have a frank talk

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: Our mortgage has come due and we have decided to refinance our home and incorporate some of our debts into the financing so that we can pay off much higher interest rates on our credit cards and car loans. We have the OK from our bank, but when we sat down with our lawyer, she outlined the terms of the refinance and the bank has decided to include another debt for some equipment we purchased for our business ahead of the credit cards. The interest rate on the equipment loan is far less than the credit cards, but our lawyer is saying she has to do what the bank instructs. Can they do this?

A: In this day and age when consumers are often juggling up to a dozen rotating debts, if you go to your bank 'hat in hand' they will often knock it out of your hand. The bank doesn't just look at the equity you have in your home and what you are borrowing; they also look at your credit score and what secondary debts you are carrying. I see banks making somewhat bizarre demands of their borrowers in order to strengthen their primary position as a creditor. In your case, it makes no sense that they would want you to pay the equipment loan at a single digit interest rate if you are carrying balances on your credit cards at a rate well into the double digits. In this case, I think a frank discussion with your banker or your mortgage broker is in order. Your lawyer is simply following instructions. The change in any conditions of your financing has to come from the financial institution and the underwriting team.

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metro SPORTS

Canada Soccer's Road to Rio • Canada v Brazil • June 4th, BMO Field, Toronto

Jays' Tulowitzki escapes with rap on the knuckles

Celtics forward Amir Johnson shoots over his former team on Wednesday in Boston. GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Star shortstop just day-to-day after being hit by Mets' Colon

Toronto shortstop Troy Tulowitzki left in the fourth inning of the Blue Jays' 3-1 win over the New York Mets on Wednesday after being hit on the right hand by a pitch from Bartolo Colon.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said Tulowitzki was struck on the knuckles and will have X-rays. Gibbons said the Blue Jays think the injury isn't major.

"It's swollen a little bit and he cut it up a little bit, too," Gibbons said. "It's a sensitive area, hands and all that. Hopefully it's nothing."

The club later confirmed that the shortstop — acquired from the Rockies during the hectic trade deadline splash by then GM Alex Anthopoulos last term — had avoided serious injury.

$109 million

Troy Tulowitzki has $109 million and six years remaining on his current contract with the Jays.

Troy Tulowitzki grimaces after being hit in Wednesday's game against the Mets.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Bone bruise to right hand on knuckles. X-ray came back negative and he is listed as day-to-day," was the update from the club's Twitter account.

Toronto slugger Jose Bautista was a late scratch due to neck stiffness, a move Gibbons said was precautionary.

Coming off a start Friday against Washington in which he allowed eight runs over five innings, Colon limited the Blue Jays to three hits — including two by Darrell Ceciliani — over six scoreless innings.

Toronto's Aaron Sanchez, bidding to be the fifth starter, scattered four hits in 6-1/3 shutout innings. He has given up three earned runs in 19-2/3 innings and five appearances.

"They both get ground balls all day long," Gibbons said of Colon and Sanchez.

Colon had six strikeouts, while Sanchez picked up four. Neither had a walk.

"Bartolo was doing his thing out there," Sanchez said.

Gibbons said DH-1B Edwin Encarnacion, dealing with an oblique issue for the past two weeks, is getting better. He could soon get at-bats in a minor league game. Jays infielder Ryan Goins didn't play due to flu-like symptoms.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STRO' THE MAN

Ace named Jays' opener

Marcus Stroman will start for the Blue Jays in the American League opener at Tampa Bay on April 3.

Manager John Gibbons made the expected announcement Wednesday.

"I'm honoured, I'm humbled," Stroman said after throwing in a minor league game.

Gibbons also didn't rule out Stroman starting the home opener on April 8 against Boston. Stroman said starting both openers would be "awesome."

"I would definitely accept that and run with it," he said. "This past year there were a lot of ups and downs. I'm thankful to be in the position. It's my first opening day. I can't wait."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marcus Stroman GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Celts top Raps sans Lowry

WEDNESDAY In Boston

91	79
CELTICS	RAPTORS

Isaiah Thomas scored 23 points, Evan Turner added 17 and the Boston Celtics beat the Toronto Raptors 91-79 on Wednesday night.

Avery Bradley finished with 16 points and eight rebounds as the Celtics won their third consecutive game.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 21 points. Point guard Kyle Lowry sat out, resting a sore right elbow.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quiet man Larin makes major racket

Cyle Larin's emergence gives Canada something they've long lacked — a focal point up front. MARVIN RECINOS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Phenom ready to raise decibels all over again as Mexicans await

Cyle Larin is as soft spoken as they come off the field. On the pitch, it's a completely different story.

Following a record-breaking rookie season in MLS that saw him score 17 times for Orlando City SC, the big striker from Brampton put any thought of a sophomore slump to bed early by bagging three goals in as many outings for his club to start 2016.

That razor-sharp form is good news for Canada as the men's national team prepares to host powerhouse Mexico on Friday in a crucial World Cup qualifier.

"We have the right players to go into this game and win," Larin said with quiet confidence. "Everyone believes we can do something special."

While the overall talent level has risen across the Canadian setup with the likes of winger Junior Hoilett committing to the program, Larin's emergence as a target man with a nose for the net has been vital for a country that's struggled to score for a generation.

"He gives us something different — a reliable presence," said veteran midfielder Will Johnson. "We've rotated guys in and out of that position and now we have a player that you know exactly what you're going to get from, which is a high-quality centre forward."

Larin — who turns 21 next month — has four goals in his nine international starts, including the critical winner in November's 1-0 victory over Honduras that got Canada off on the right foot in the penultimate round of qualifying.

"He's a big, strong, athletic boy," said defender David Edgar. "If he keeps banging in the goals, that's great for us. He's an exciting young talent."

Larin credits part of his development to a teammate in Orlando, Brazilian icon Kaka. "He teaches me a lot on and off the field," said Larin. "The things I've done this year, I learned from him — just getting my head up more, thinking quicker."

Larin's thick six-foot-two, 190-pound frame gives him the ability to shield off defenders, while his agility means he's often first to a loose ball.

Canada is a heavy underdog heading into Friday's game against No. 22 Mexico in front of what's expected to be a sold-out crowd of more than 54,000 at BC Place Stadium. But the visitors are keenly aware of the biggest threat they face.

"It's not a coincidence that Mr. Larin is having a great season," said Mexican head coach Juan Carlos Osorio. "It will be a challenge for our defence to try to contain him."

A result at home this week would be a massive step for Larin and his teammates.

"We believe in each other. That's the most important thing," said Larin, who isn't feeling the pressure.

"It's just motivation to keep going. Once I get my rhythm scoring with the national team, I don't think it will stop."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> He's got a good eye for the goal. We all believe in him.
> Canada midfielder Atiba Hutchinson on Larin

MLS

TFC still crying foul over Kansas winner

Three days later and Toronto FC is still convinced a missed call cost it two valuable points on the road.

Toronto lost 1-0 in Kansas City on a Brad Davis goal Sunday, with Davis rounding on goal after going shoulder to shoulder with Justin Morrow, who went down on the play. For the Toronto camp, it's a foul every time.

"For me it's a foul," head coach Greg Vanney said Wednesday. "And from a refereeing standpoint, it's one of those situations that you make the call and nobody talks about it ever again. You don't make the call and now it's the topic of discussion."

Video of the incident has been scrutinized like it was the Zapruder film.

"I still think it's a foul," said Morrow, who has reviewed the tape. "The way I saw it I was in front of him and he stepped on my foot, tripped me. That's a foul."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Star pair sees Israel off

Inter Milan teammates Ivan Perisic and Marcelo Brozovic scored as Croatia began its preparations for the European Championship with a 2-0 victory at home to Israel in a friendly on Wednesday.

In another friendly, Slovenia beat Macedonia 1-0. Italy and Spain meet Thursday as preparations for this summer's tournament ramp up. Turkey, Sweden, Wales and Iceland are also in action.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Back issue troubles Day

Jason Day overcame an early deficit to win his opening match in the Dell Match Play. Now he has to overcome a bad back. Day was reaching for his back for a few holes until he grabbed it after a tee shot on the 16th hole and then dropped to one knee as he closed out Graeme McDowell, 3 and 2.

Day headed straight for the fitness trailer for treatment. The severity of the injury was unclear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLYMPICS

Bolt will tune up for Rio in London

Usain Bolt will prepare for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics by returning to the site of the last games for the London Diamond League meet.

The Jamaican will compete in July's Anniversary Games, four years after winning three Olympic gold medals in the Olympic Stadium in the 100, 200 and 4x100-metre relay races.

Organizers say Bolt will appear on July 22, but didn't specific in which races.

In a statement, Bolt says it's "one of my last races before the Olympic Games in Rio. It will be good to return to the Olympic Stadium on the Friday night and get more of the special atmosphere that the fans always produce."

The stadium is being redeveloped to accommodate Premier League club West Ham from August while still retaining athletics facilities in the process.

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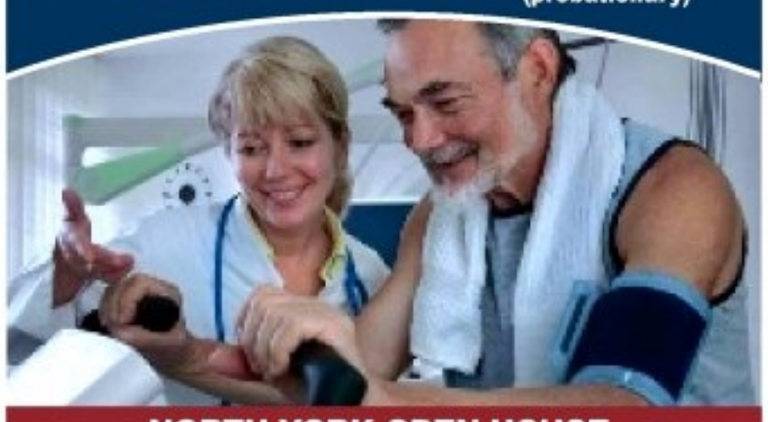

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RECIPE Veggie Cream Cheese Sandwiches

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Sure you could pack this for tomorrow's lunch but since it's a complete meal (and so easy) why not make it for tonight's easy dinner?

Ready in
Time: 5 mins

Ingredients
- 1 carrot, grated or slice
- 1/2 English cucumber, grated
- 1/2 avocado, sliced
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup light cream cheese
- 4 slices of whole grain bread

Directions

1. Begin by grating your carrot and grating or slicing cucumber into bowls. Now halve your avocado. Gently slice it in the shell and turn the slices out onto a plate. Sprinkle the slices with lemon juice to keep them from browning

2. Now it's time to assemble. Place four slices of bread down on a clean cutting board. Load two with cream cheese to your desired thickness

3. Sprinkle your desired amount of carrot and cucumber over the cheese and gently press it into the bread using the back of a wooden spoon or your hand.

4. Arrange a few slices of avocado on the remaining two pieces of bread. Pair up your avocado halves with the cheese halves and serve.

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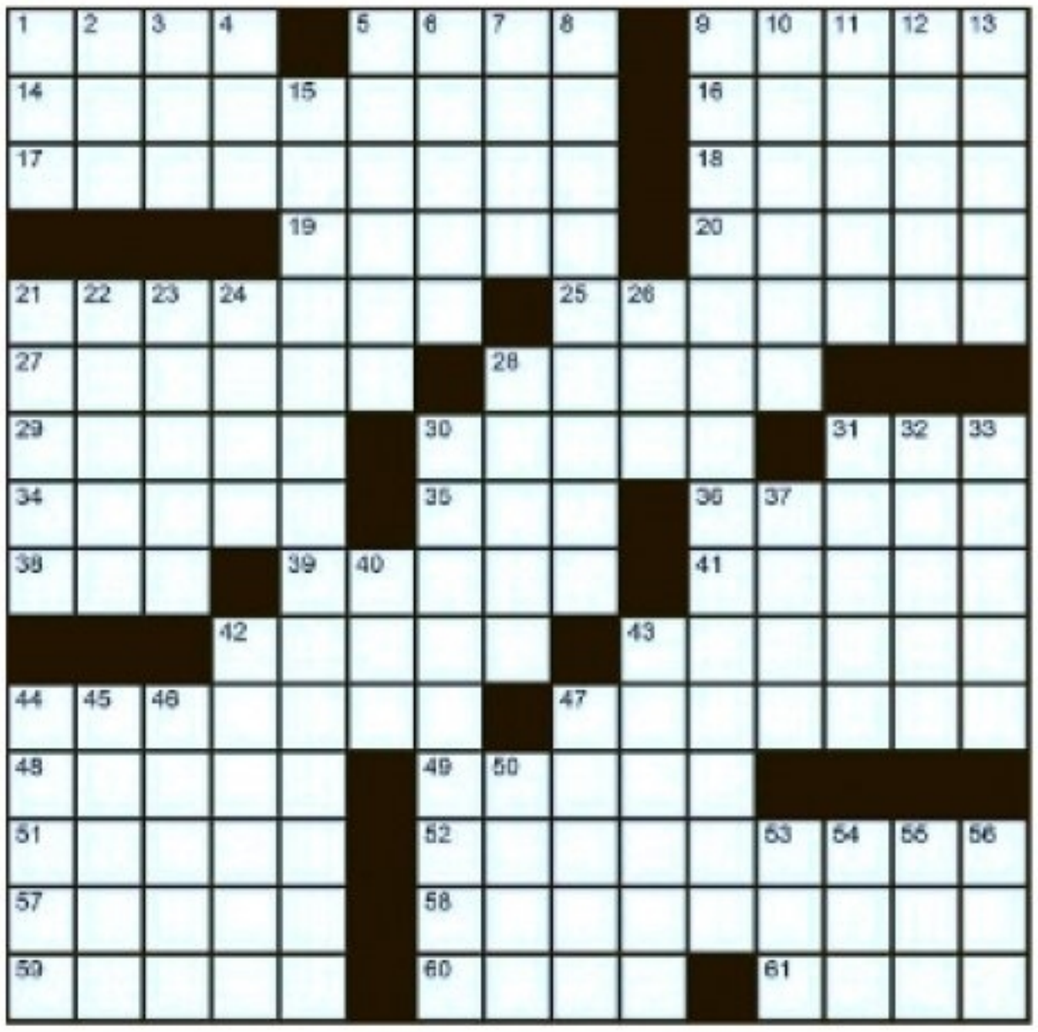
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Guzzle the Guinness
5. Light rain
9. Perilous precipitation
14. Basket or box
16. Writer, Oscar __ (b.1854 - d.1900)
17. Nova Scotia's provincial tree: 2 wds.
18. Mirror's mirroring
19. Rigatoni or macaroni
20. George Harrison played it on "Norwegian Wood"
21. Lodging, in Lyon
25. "Automatic": 1984 hit for The Pointer __
27. Person sitting for the sketching artist, say
28. Easter story betrayer
29. Like porridge bits
30. Hurting more
31. Purpose
34. Sanctified, olde-style
35. "Faster!"
36. Thanks, in Rimouski
38. Tee's alphabetical predecessor
39. Golf club types
41. Talks and talks [var. sp.]
42. Hightails it
43. Concurs
44. The Easter Bunny's savings: 2 wds.
47. Metal castings factory
48. Optical layers
49. "That '70s Show" star Ms. Prepon
51. Mr. Carradine of Madonna's music video "Material Girl"
52. Commonwealth country
57. Tedium
58. Dedicated/dependable
59. Super slope-y
60. Landscaping rolls
61.. Variety

DOWN
1. "Born on the Bayou" band, briefly
2. Uprooter of small weeds
3. And, in Munich
4. Initials-sharers of Sulu's portrayer on "Star Trek"
5. Oasis, to someone lost in the desert
6. Operating: 2 wds.
7. Splinter group
8. Chests contents at sea
9. The Pope's protection: 3 wds.
10. Restricts
11. Raise the spirits with joy
12. For Better or For Worse dog
13. Readying-for-play golfers
15. Set-in-Quebec movie of 1974, "The __ of Duddy Kravitz"
21. .pdf files program, __ Acrobat
22. Russian mountain chain
23. Kathy of "Misery" (1990)
24. Rearing ruminants
26. 'Fluor' suffix
28. Connects
30. Whisky holder in the bar: 2 wds.
31. Bowed, like a rainbow
32. One who finds things yucky, perhaps
33. Ms. Gold of "Benson"
37. Net dollars
40. Dusting cloth
42. Museum's marble man
43. Major blood arteries
44. Informally uses the microwave
45. Incident
46. Sight from the Eiffel Tower
47. Melded
50. Delivery to the dealership
53. Situated at the ship's stern
54. Do some of a mason's work
55. To-the-Internet connection, for short
56. Finished the food

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You have strong ideas about politics, religion and racial issues today, and you want to express them. This could cause a problem with a friend or partner.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Behind-the-scenes research reveals how you can get funds or assistance. Nevertheless, be prepared for interruptions to your work day. Computer crashes, canceled meetings and staff shortages are examples.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You can convince anyone of anything today because your mind is alert and energetic! Parents should be vigilant about potential accidents for their kids.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a great day to talk to bosses and authority figures because they will be impressed with you. Nevertheless, this could upset someone at home or in your family.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is an accident-prone day. Your daily routine will be interrupted — you can count on this. Allow extra time so that you have wiggle room to deal with things.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Keep an eye on your money today, because you might find money or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss or theft. Be leery of someone who sweet talks a deal.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A close friend or partner might surprise you today. One thing is certain: Conversations will be dynamic and productive! Expect fast action.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will impress work colleagues today, because your mind is in overdrive and you see everything clearly. (This also will help you to cope with unexpected interruptions on the job.)

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be vigilant, as this is an accident-prone day for your kids. However, this also is a creative day for those who work in the arts and an active day for those in sports.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Family discussions will be dynamic today. You will want to give your two cents' worth. Stay light on your feet, because it's a fast-changing day!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your daily routine will change today because of cancelled meetings, minor accidents and surprises. Pay attention to everything you say and do. Fortunately, you're on top of things!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a strong day for business and commerce. You will persuade others to agree with you. However, something unexpected will catch you off-guard, so be prepared.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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